

MARVEL

14

LGY#781

**OTTLEY
RATHBURN
GRACIA**

SHIELD



**R. OTTLEY
+ MARTE
GRACIA**

**THE BRUTAL
FINALE!**

FINAL

HULK HAS RECENTLY UNDERGONE A DRAMATIC TRANSFORMATION. HIS ALTER EGO, BRUCE BANNER, HAS SPLIT THE HULK INTO THREE DISTINCT PARTS: THE HULK'S BODY HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A STARSHIP. BANNER'S PSYCHE PILOTS IT FROM WITHIN THE HULK'S MIND. AND THE HULK'S PSYCHE FUELS THE STARSHIP WITH HIS ANGER.

BANNER BELIEVED THE ABILITY TO CONTROL THE HULK THROUGH THIS MIND PALACE WAS SOMETHING HE ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE HELP OF DOCTOR STRANGE.

AFTER SOMETHING WITHIN HIM--NOW KNOWN TO BE THE MONSTER CALLED TITAN--TOOK CONTROL OF HIS BODY AND KILLED A BAR FULL OF PATRONS, BANNER PILOTED STARSHIP HULK INTO THE DEEP REACHES OF SPACE, EVENTUALLY COMING ACROSS A PLANET COATED IN GAMMA WITH A POPULATION OF HULKS OF ITS OWN. THEIR LEADER, MONOLITH, PROMISED HULK A PLACE HE COULD FINALLY CALL HOME.

BUT THERE WAS NO PLACE MORE AT RISK FROM THE GAMMA-ABSORBING TITAN. WHEN TITAN RESURFACED, DOC SAMSON SOUGHT HELP FROM DOCTOR STRANGE, WHO UNCOVERED THE MIND PALACE'S TRUE ARCHITECT: A FEAR DEMON NAMED D'SPAYRE. BUT AS THE SORCERER SUPREME CAPTURED THIS DEMON HIDING IN BRUCE'S MIND, TITAN RIPPED BOTH STRANGE AND SAMSON ACROSS SPACE...TO WATCH AS HE LAID WASTE TO THE HULK PLANET.

"HULK PLANET"

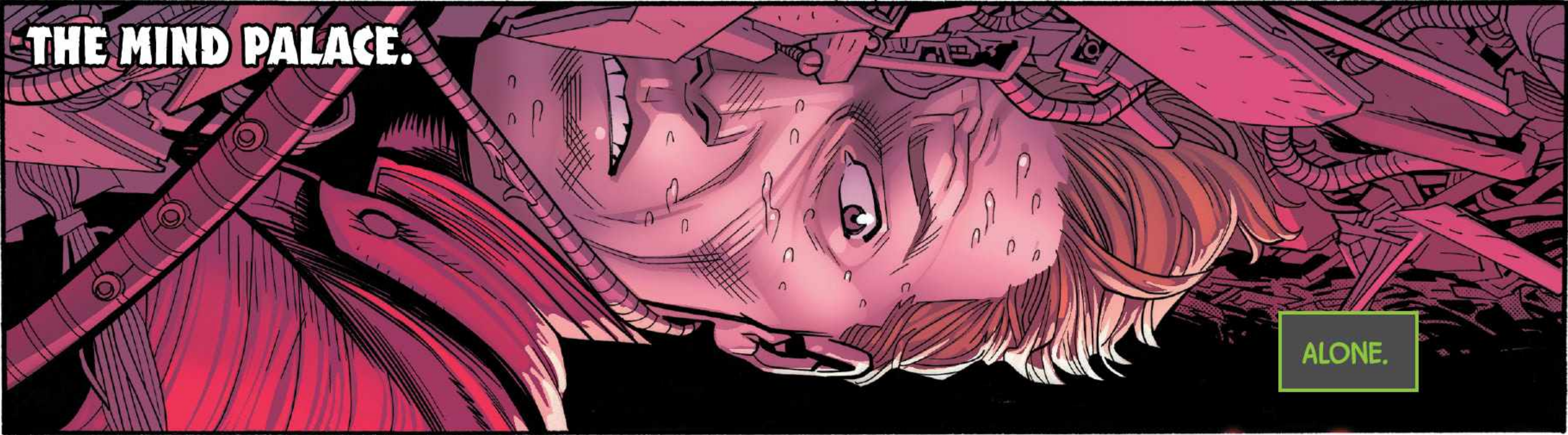
..... finale

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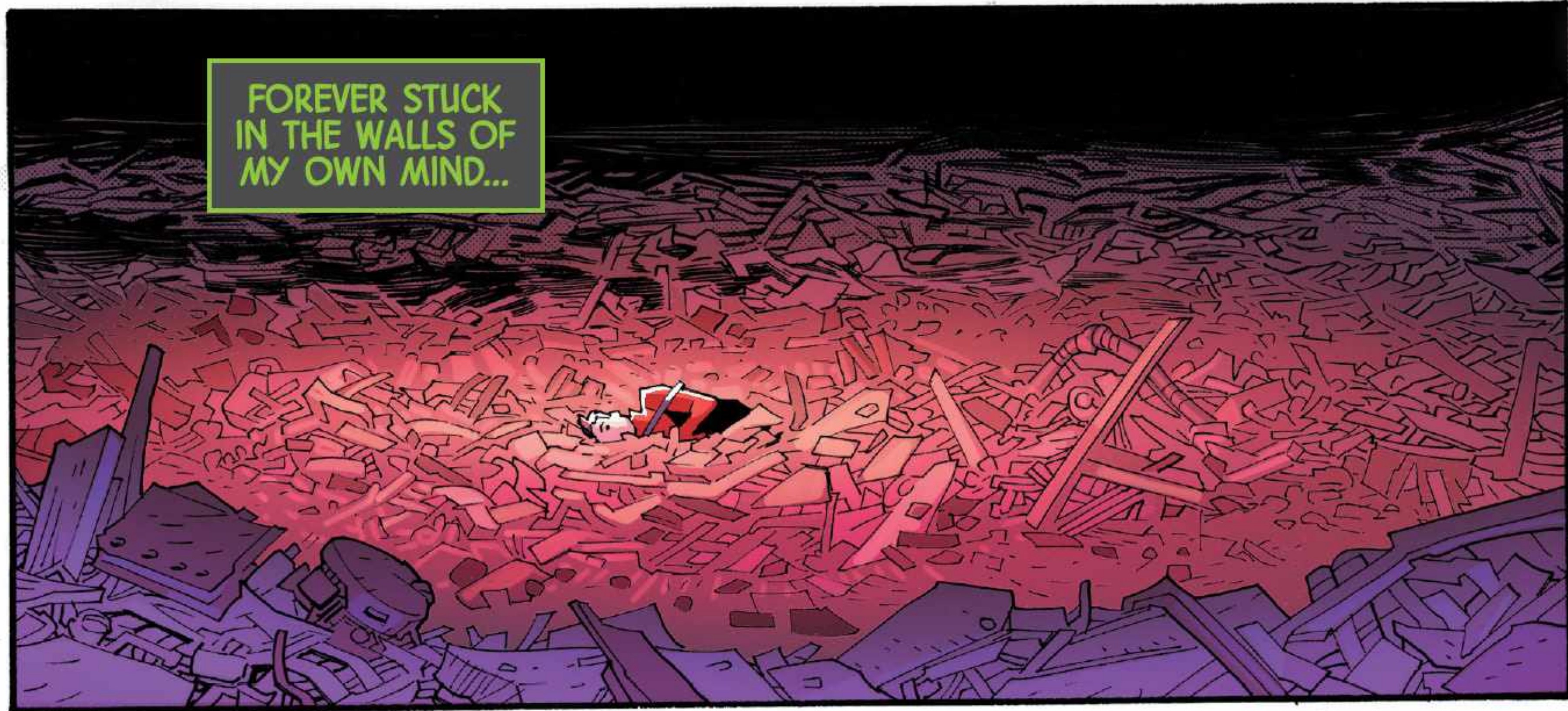


THE MIND PALACE.

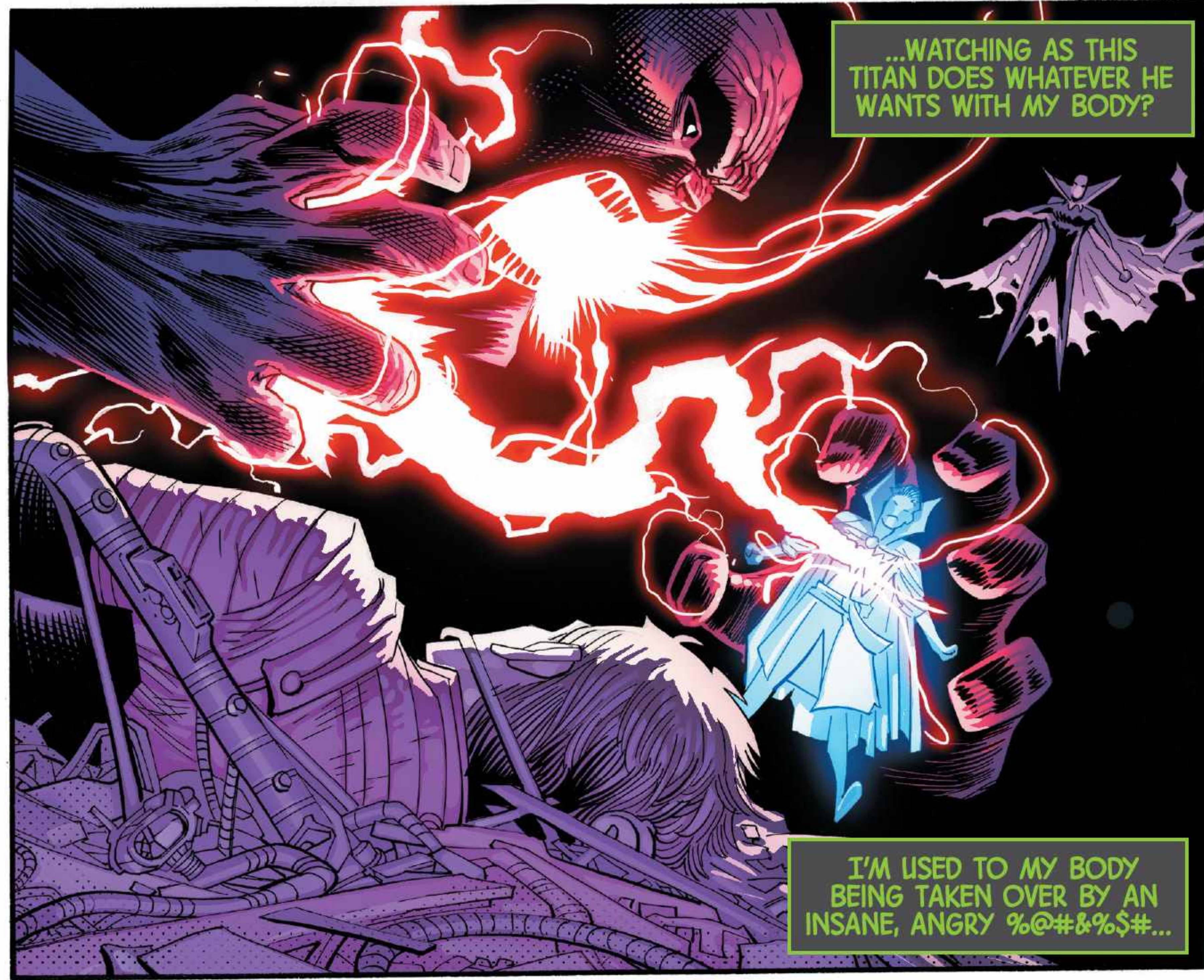
ALONE.



IS THIS
REALLY HOW
IT ENDS?



FOREVER STUCK
IN THE WALLS OF
MY OWN MIND...



...WATCHING AS THIS
TITAN DOES WHATEVER HE
WANTS WITH MY BODY?

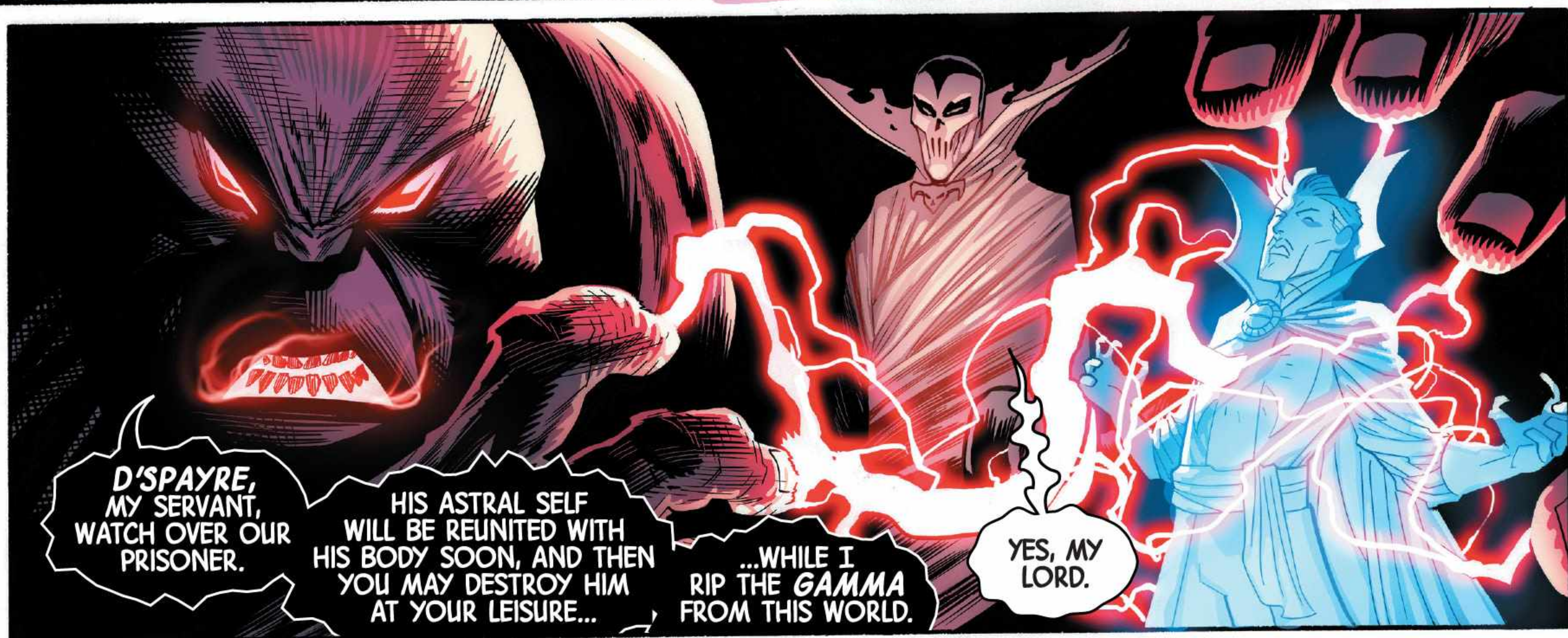
I'M USED TO MY BODY
BEING TAKEN OVER BY AN
INSANE, ANGRY %@#&%\$#...



...BUT THIS
%@#&%\$# IS
CONSIDERABLY
WORSE.

HULK PLANET.

MUCH
WORSE.



D'SPAYRE,
MY SERVANT,
WATCH OVER OUR
PRISONER.

HIS ASTRAL SELF
WILL BE REUNITED WITH
HIS BODY SOON, AND THEN
YOU MAY DESTROY HIM
AT YOUR LEISURE...

...WHILE I
RIP THE **GAMMA**
FROM THIS WORLD.

YES, MY
LORD.

YOU MUST
HAVE THOUGHT
YOURSELF SO POWERFUL
WHEN YOU LOCKED ME IN
YOUR LITTLE **ORB** AND
BROUGHT ME HERE, STRANGE.
DID YOU NOT WONDER
WHY IT WAS SO EASY
TO CAPTURE ME?

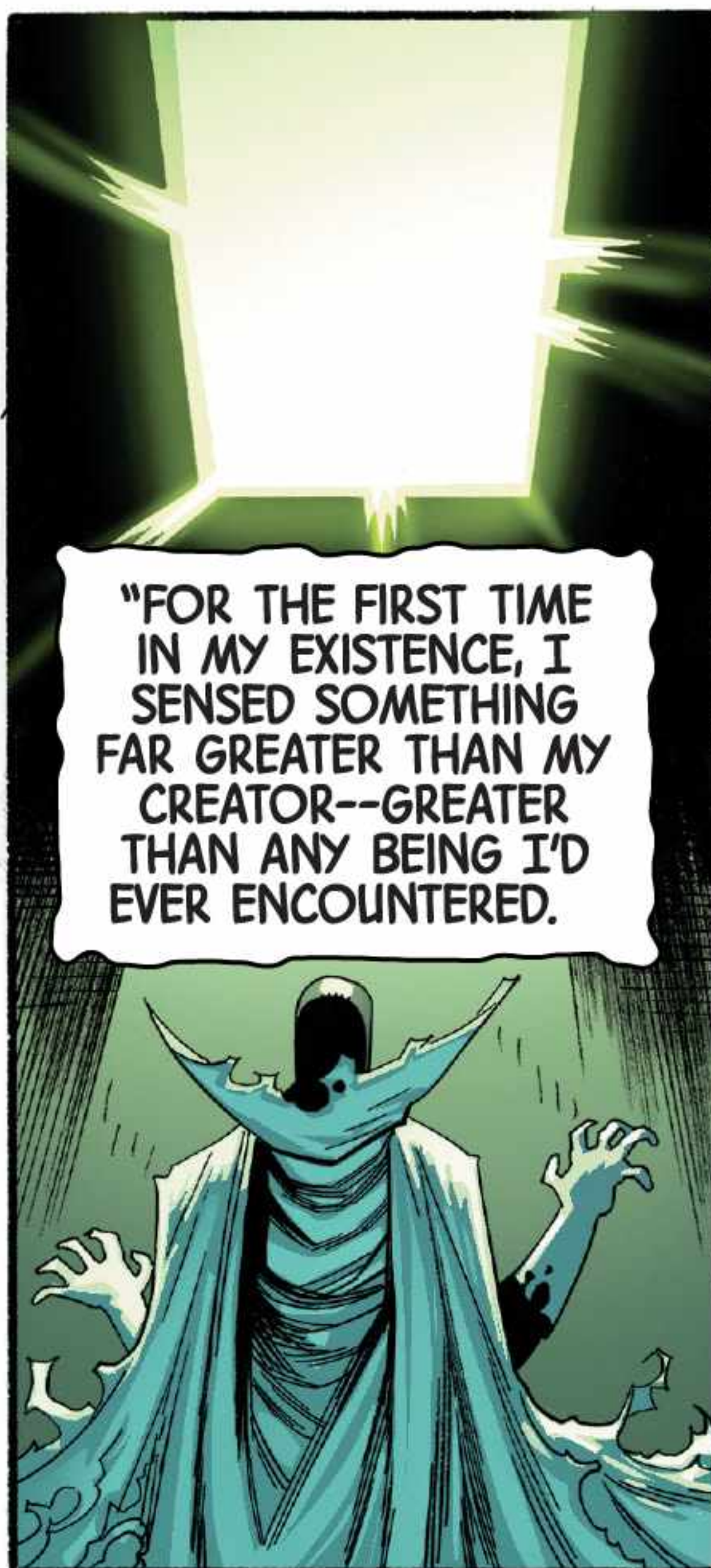
HAD IT NOT
OCCURRED TO YOU
THAT MAYBE I WANTED
TO COME HERE? TO BE
CLOSER TO THIS POWER THAT
I **MYSELF** PLANTED IN
BANNER'S MIND?

THIS MUST BE
FRIGHTENING FOR YOU,
OVERWHELMING...





"I FELT THE SAME WAY YOU DO RIGHT NOW WHEN I WAS INTRODUCED TO THIS POWER."



"FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY EXISTENCE, I SENSED SOMETHING FAR GREATER THAN MY CREATOR--GREATER THAN ANY BEING I'D EVER ENCOUNTERED."



"AND IT HANDED A PIECE OF ITS POWER TO ME."



"THE WEIGHT OF THIS SMALL SPECK...WAS OVERWHELMING."



"I WANTED TO BEG FOR JUST A PORTION OF THIS SPECK FOR MYSELF, BUT THE FEAR CONSUMED ME. WHO WAS I TO ASK ANYTHING OF A BEING SUCH AS THIS?"

"I WAS CHARGED WITH EMBEDDING THE POWER DEEP IN BANNER'S MIND, IN HIS MOST POWERFUL MEMORIES..."

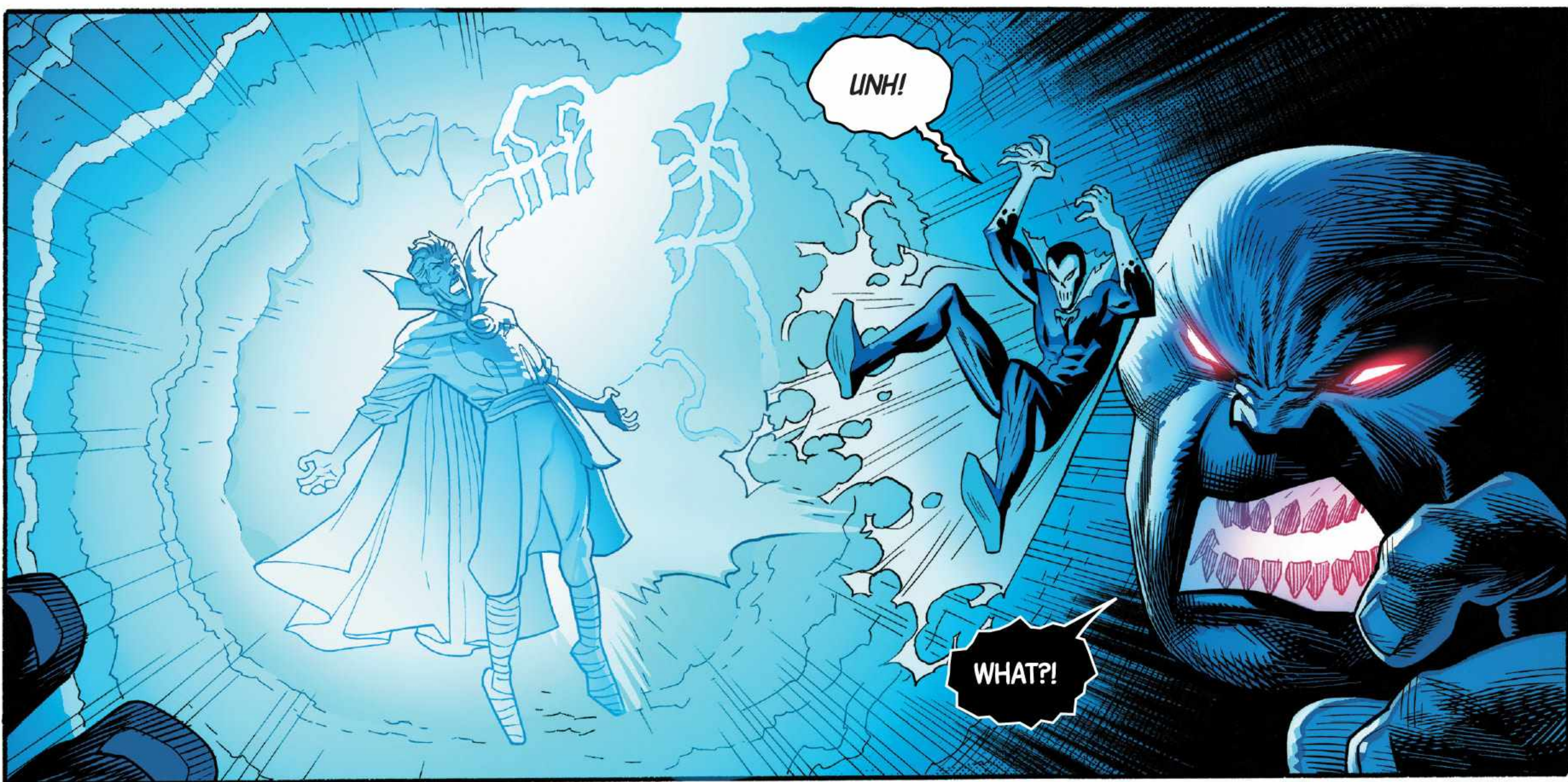
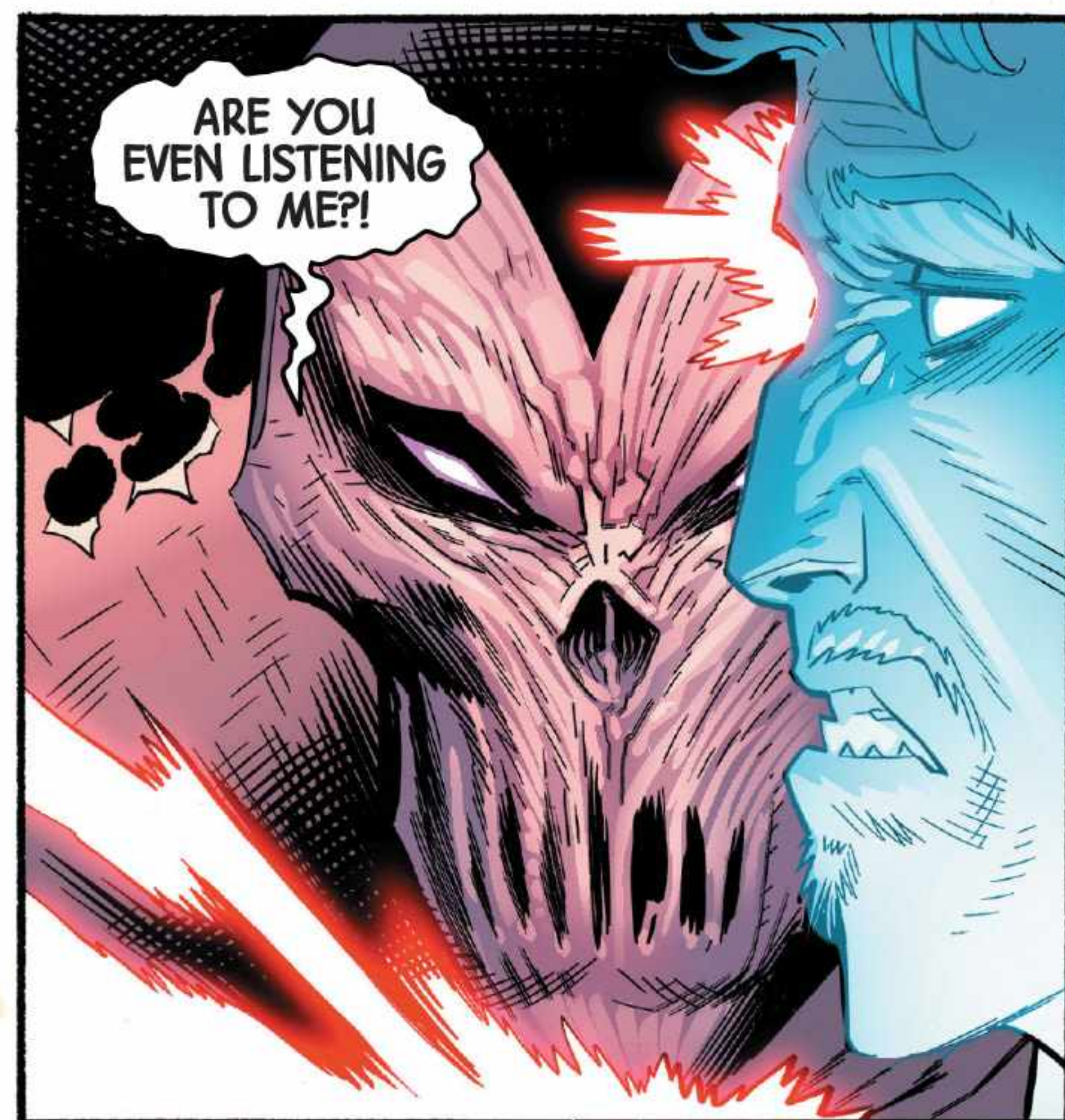


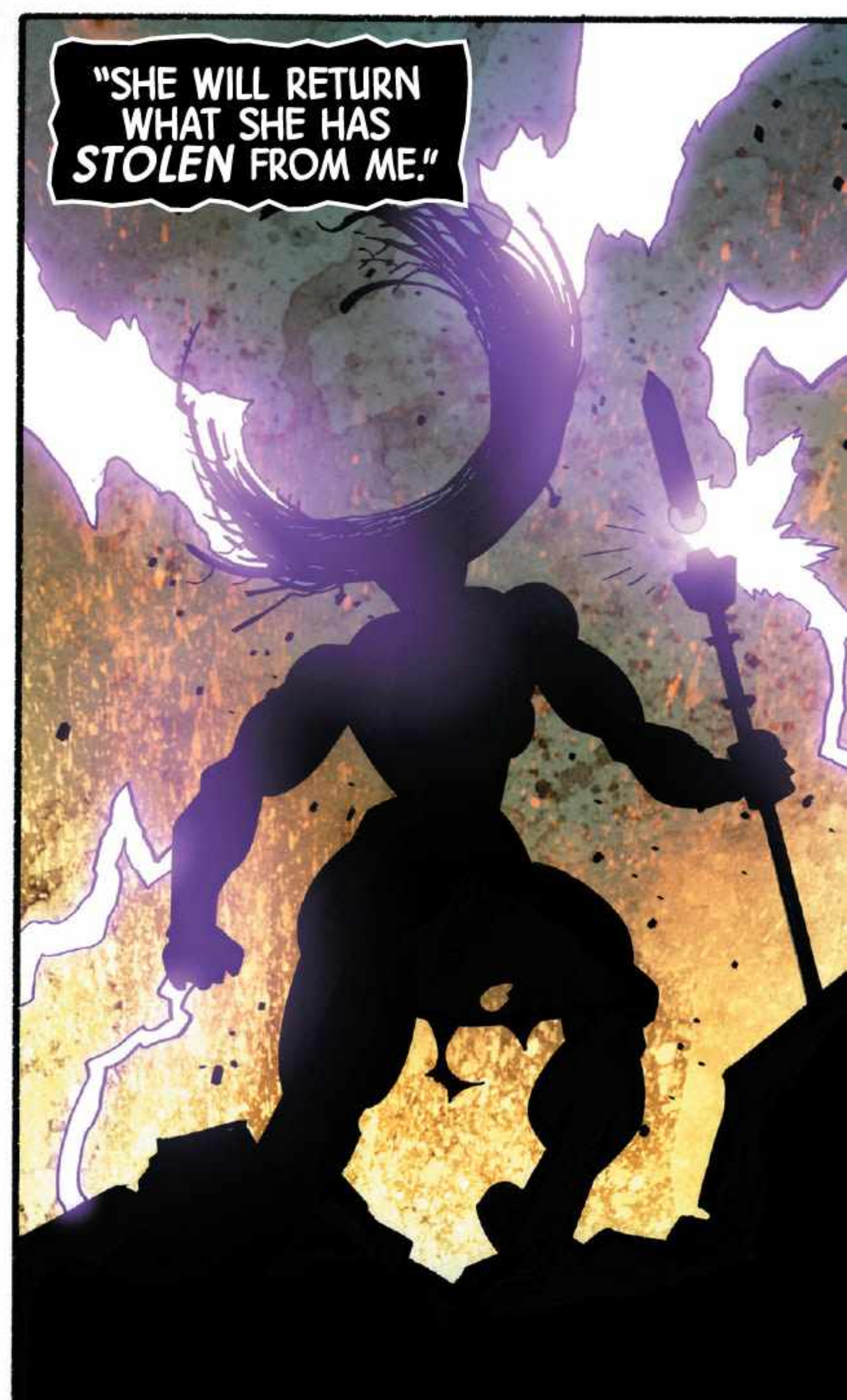
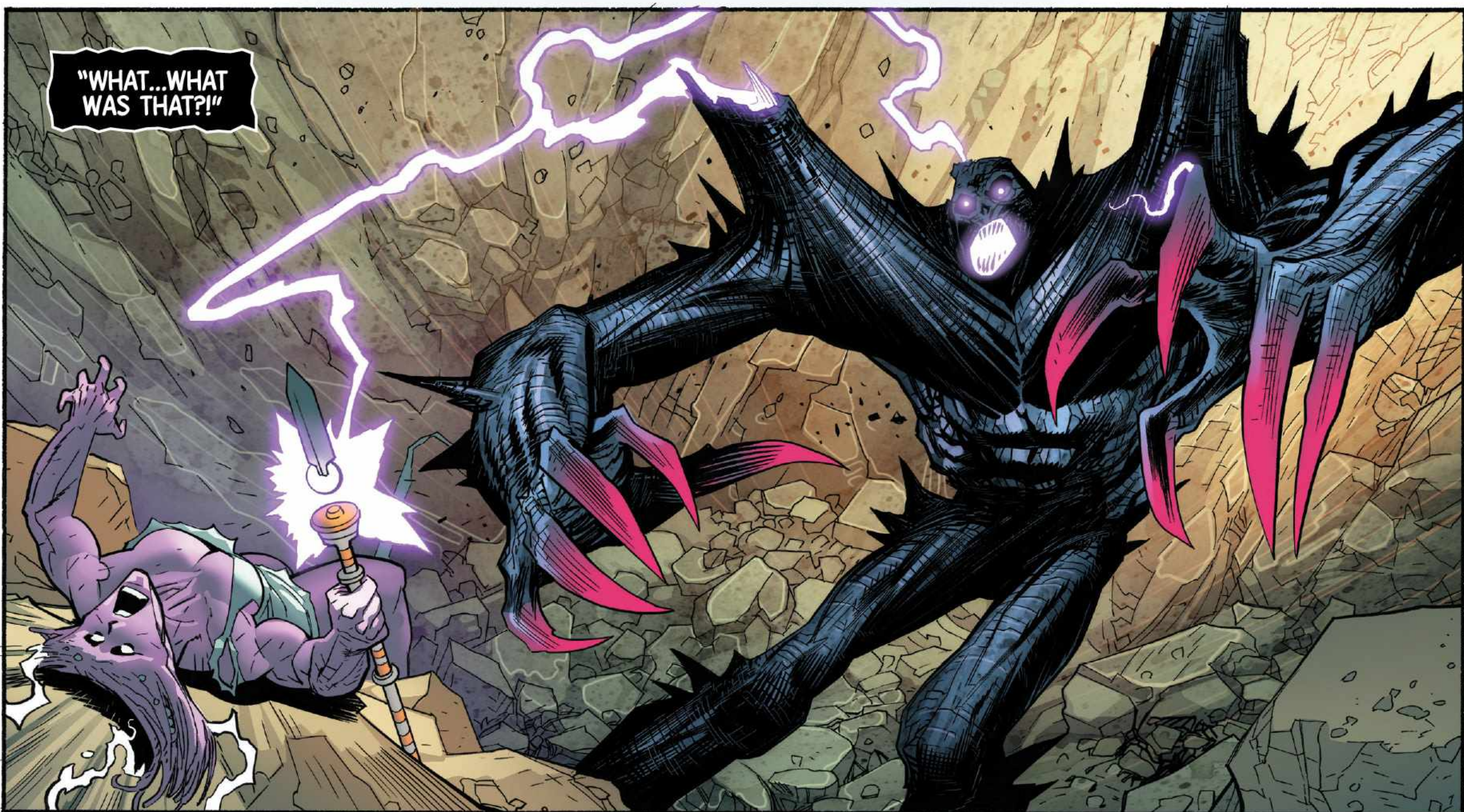
IT FOUND ITS WAY, FED ON A PERFECT SYSTEM OF FUNNELING GAMMA FROM HULK...AND GREW INTO WHAT WE NOW HAVE BEFORE US.

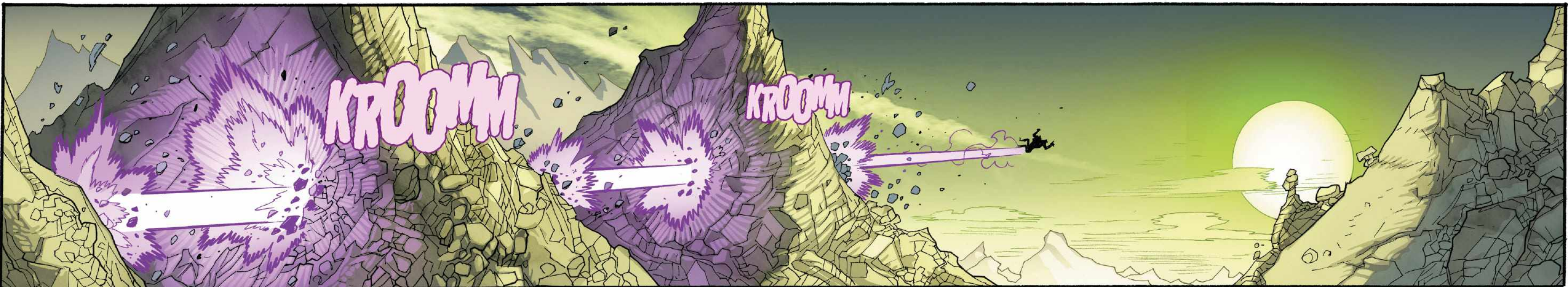
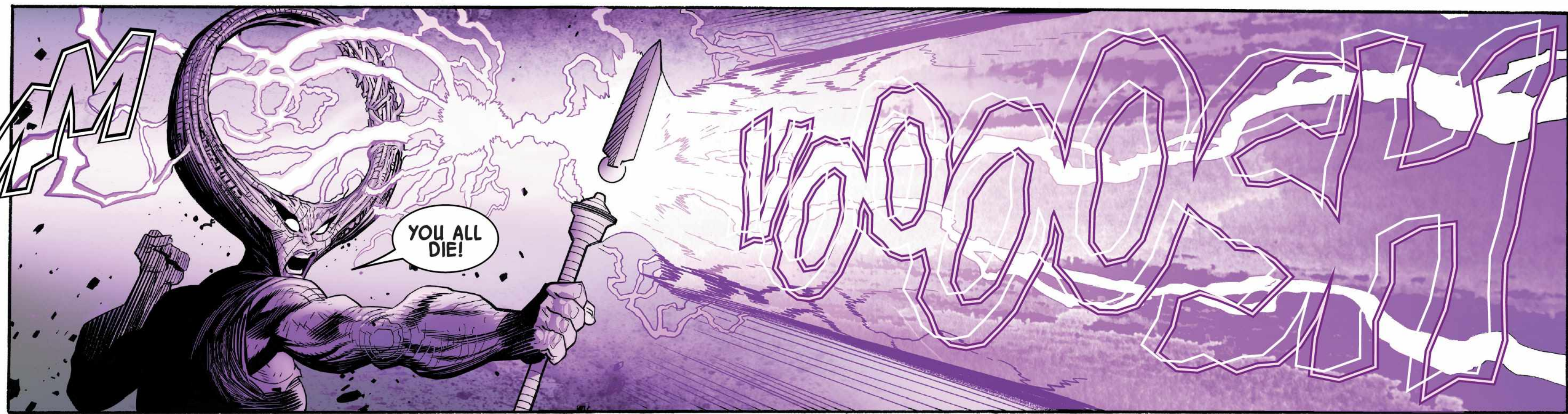
A TITAN.

HE WILL DRAIN THIS PLANET, THEN MOVE ON TO YOUR HOMEWORLD. AND I GET TO WATCH EVERY STEP OF THE WAY AS DEATH WASHES OVER ALL IN A SYMPHONY OF WEeping AND WAILING.

I THANK YOU FOR THE INVITE.









MONOLITH!
SHE...SHE SAVED
US ALL!

UNH...



OH GOD!
NO!



YOU
DESTROYED IT,
MY QUEEN!

NO...NO, I
ANGERED IT. I
SAW...EVERYTHING.
ITS POWER...I DON'T
UNDERSTAND IT...
SO ANCIENT...
MASSIVE...

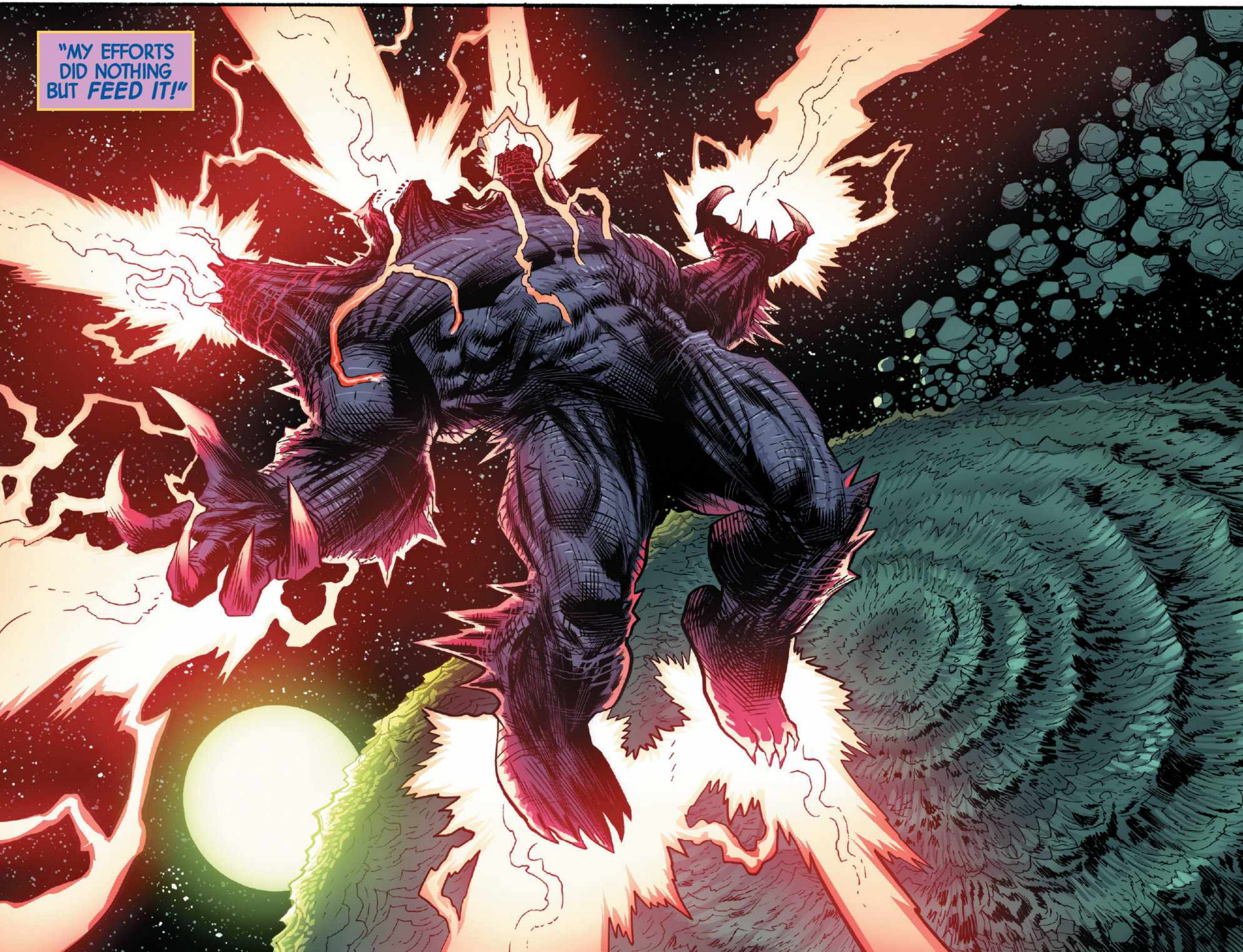
WE MUST
FLEE. IT'S OUR
ONLY CHANCE.



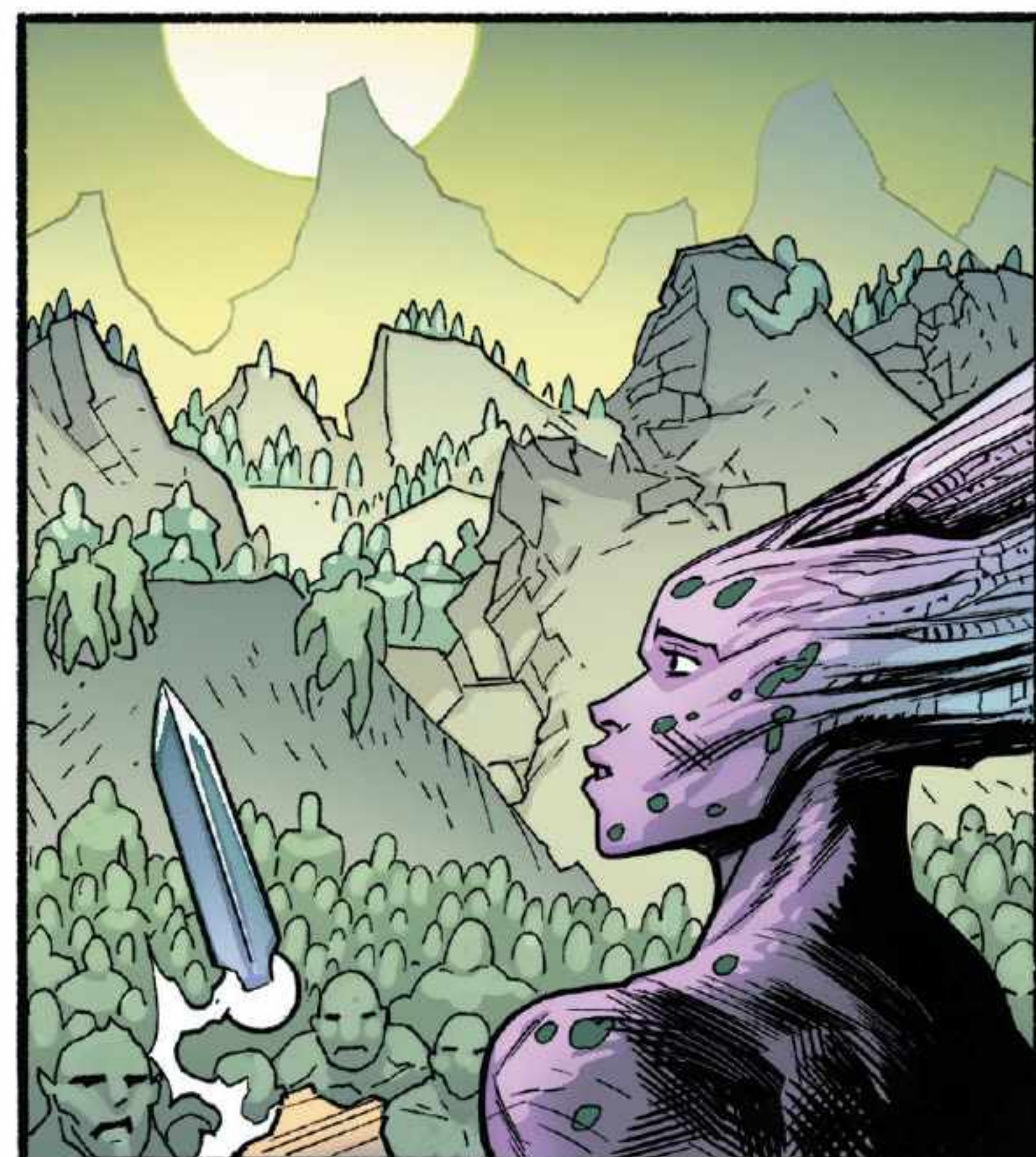
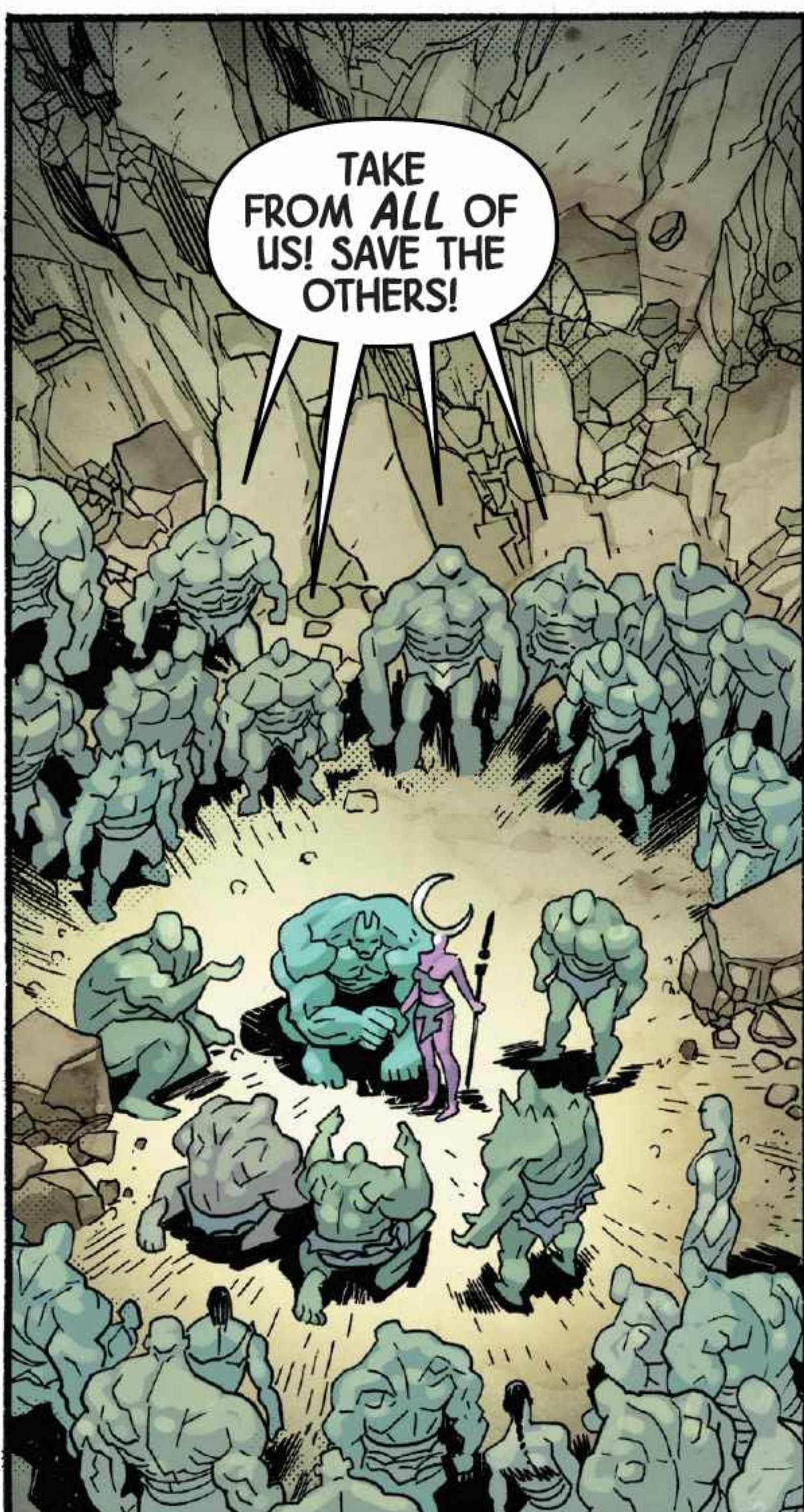
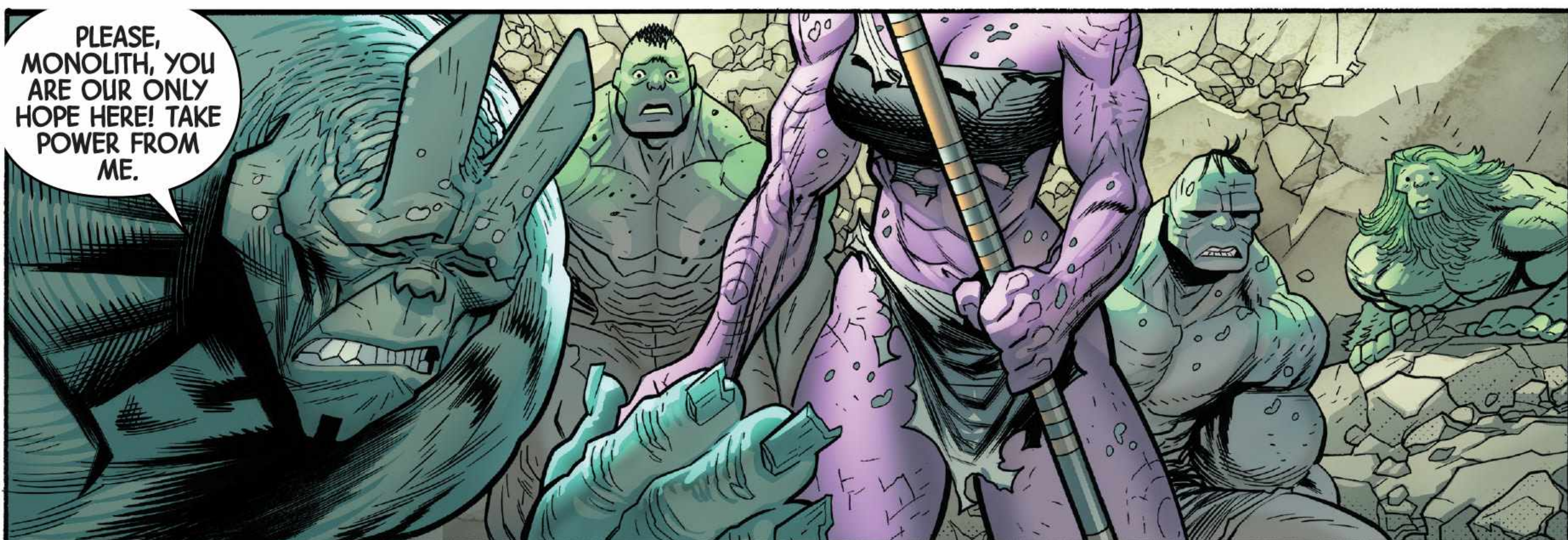
BUT IT'S GONE!
YOU DRAINED ITS
POWER AND SENT
IT TO DIE! YOU
SAVED US ALL!

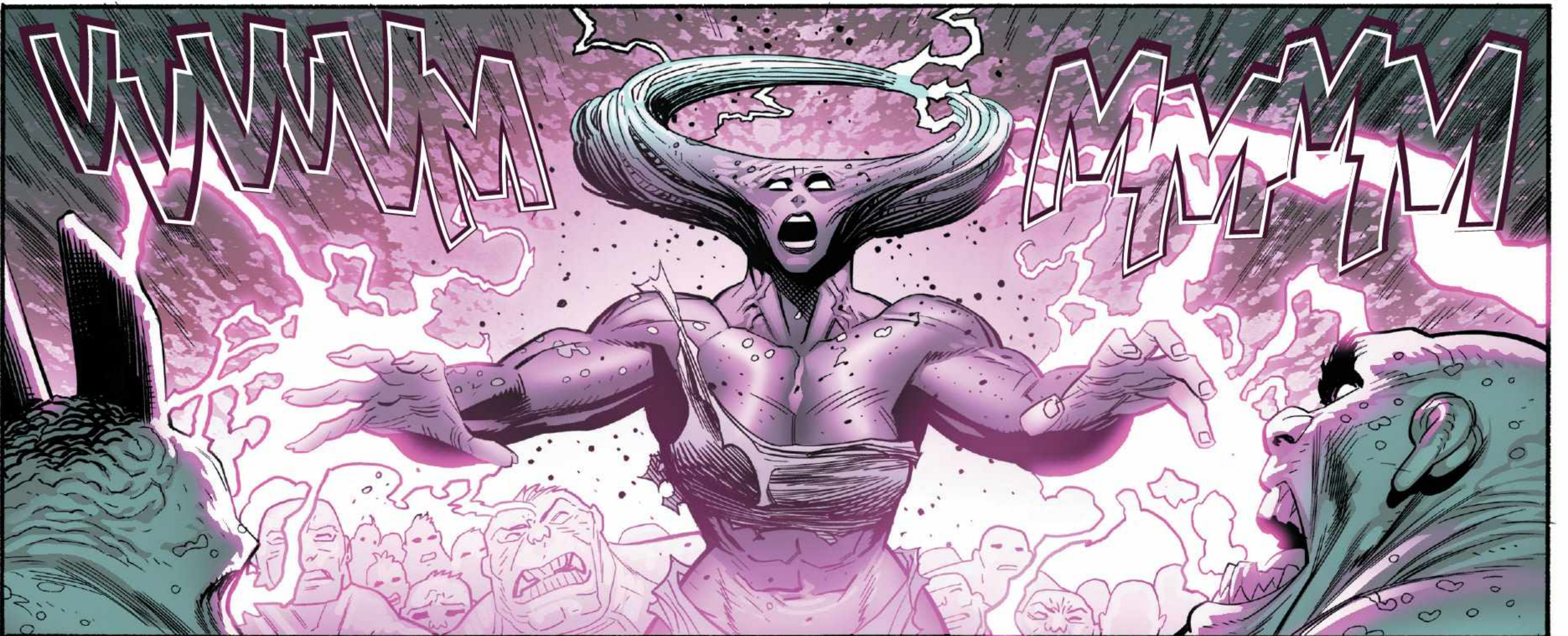
NO! I JUST
UNLEASHED EVERY
OUNCE OF ENERGY I
TOOK FROM IT IN THE
HOPE OF INJURING IT,
BUT I CAN SENSE
ITS POWER--

--IT
ABSORBED
EVERYTHING!



"MY EFFORTS
DID NOTHING
BUT **FEED** IT!"





"...TITAN IS
BACK."

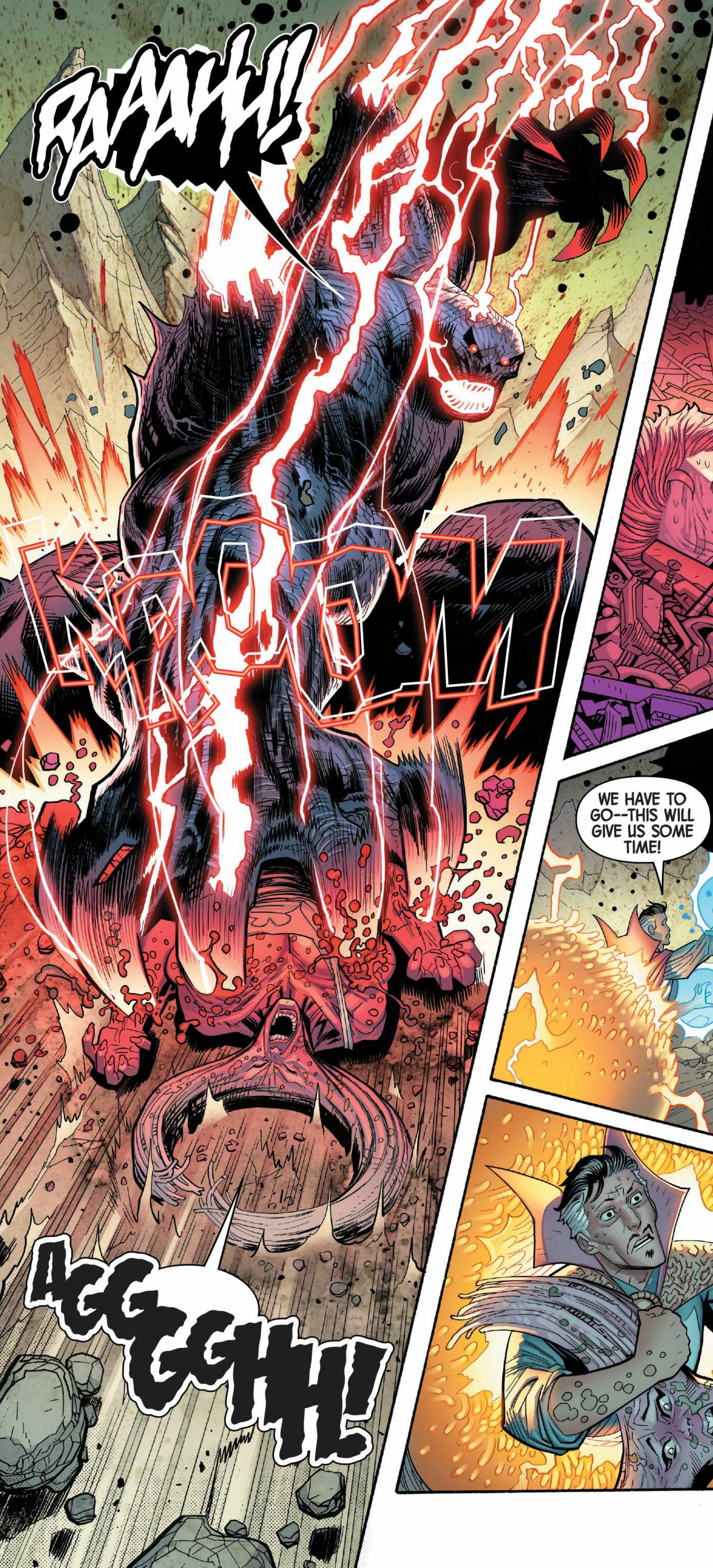


HULK...

WHERE
ARE YOU?

DOESN'T ANY
OF THIS **ANGER** YOU?
IS THIS REALLY HOW YOU
WANT TO SPEND OUR
ETERNITY? AS A MEMORY
STUCK IN A MIND THAT
WAS **TAKEN** FROM
US?!

THOOM



I'M SORRY, HULK. IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT TO HEAR? I THOUGHT YOU WERE KILLING PEOPLE. **INFECTING** THEM. I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS GOING ON, BUT I COULDN'T BE OKAY WITH IT. I HAD TO TAKE FULL CONTROL. I HAD TO LEAVE THE PLANET. I HAD TO PROTECT EVERYONE MY OWN WAY.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING? I **HAD** TO DO THIS! AND NOW I NEED YOUR HELP! THIS WHOLE PLANET NEEDS **OUR** HELP!

WE HAVE TO GO--THIS WILL GIVE US SOME TIME!

WAIT...

...SAVE MY PEOPLE FIRST!

WE CAN OPEN AS MANY PORTALS
AS NEEDED TO GET YOUR PEOPLE
TO SAFETY. THERE'RE MANY OTHER
DIMENSIONS TO FIND
REFUGE IN.

I'M SORRY TO
SAY IT, BUT YOUR
PLANET IS LOST. WE
CAN'T STOP
TITAN.

THANK YOU
FOR HELPING
US. I...

BZZZZZZKT

RRAAAHHH!!

WHY DON'T
YOU CARE? WHAT
WILL IT TAKE FOR
YOU TO REACT?

DOESN'T IT
ANGER YOU TO
KNOW THESE PEOPLE
COULD ALL DIE AT THE
HANDS OF TITAN?

THEY
COULD BE GONE
AT ANY MOMENT. THE
ENTIRE PLANET GONE
IN THE BLINK OF
AN EYE! BECAUSE
OF YOU!

WAKE
UP!



WAKE UP!!!
WHERE THE
#@\$% ARE YOU,
DAMMIT?!



HULK?! YOU...
YOU'RE HERE.
NOW. WITH
ME.

WE ARE
HULK. AND WE
HAVE MANY
REASONS TO BE
ANGRY.

SO
LET'S GET
ANGRY! GET
TITAN
OUT!



RRRAHH!!!

A comic book page featuring a confrontation between the Hulk and a large, purple, tentacle-like monster. The monster has a large, grinning mouth with sharp teeth. The Hulk is shown in various poses: being captured, being held, and finally breaking through the monster's defenses. The background is dark with some red and purple lighting effects.

I'VE TAKEN
ALL I NEED
FROM YOU.

UNFORTUNATELY,
I CAN'T GET RID OF
YOU COMPLETELY.

BUT I WILL
HAVE D'SPAYRE CREATE
ANOTHER MIND PALACE,
ONE WITH NO DOOR, NO
CHANCE OF YOUR ESCAPE,
AND NO RED-CAPED WIZARD
TO HELP YOU--I'M
ACTUALLY KILLING HIM
RIGHT NOW AS WE
SPEAK.

THIS IS
MY HOME
NOW.

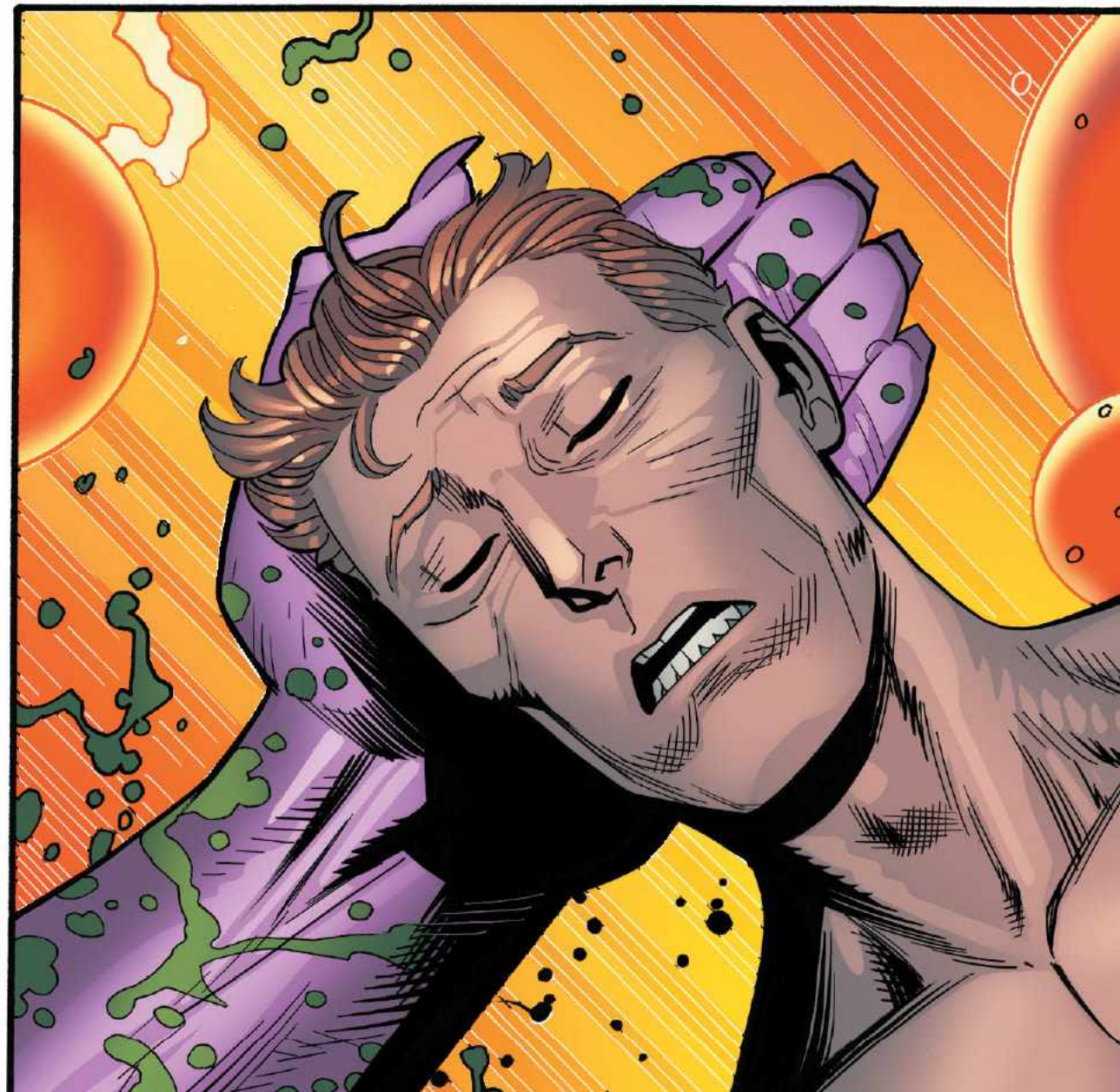
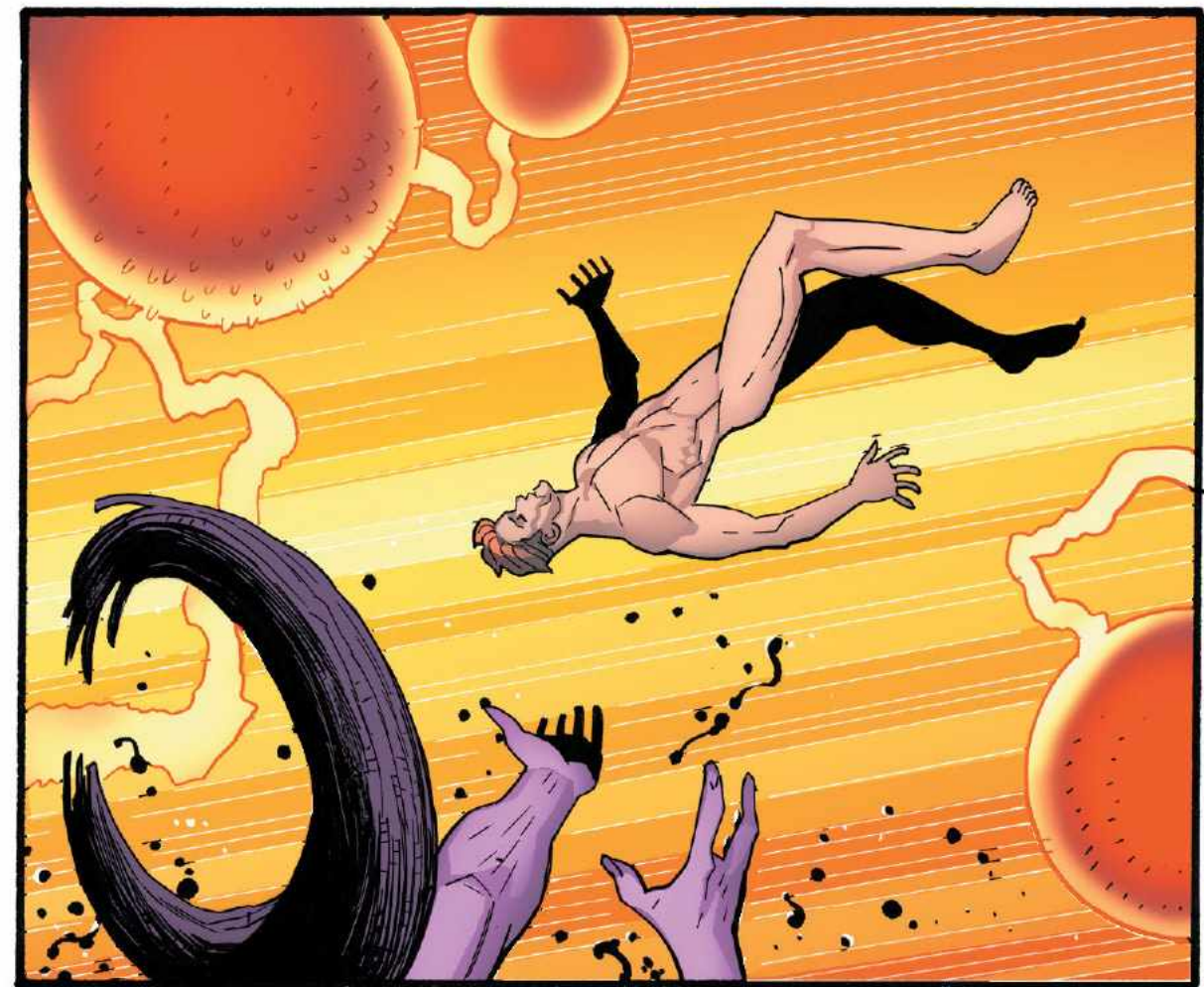
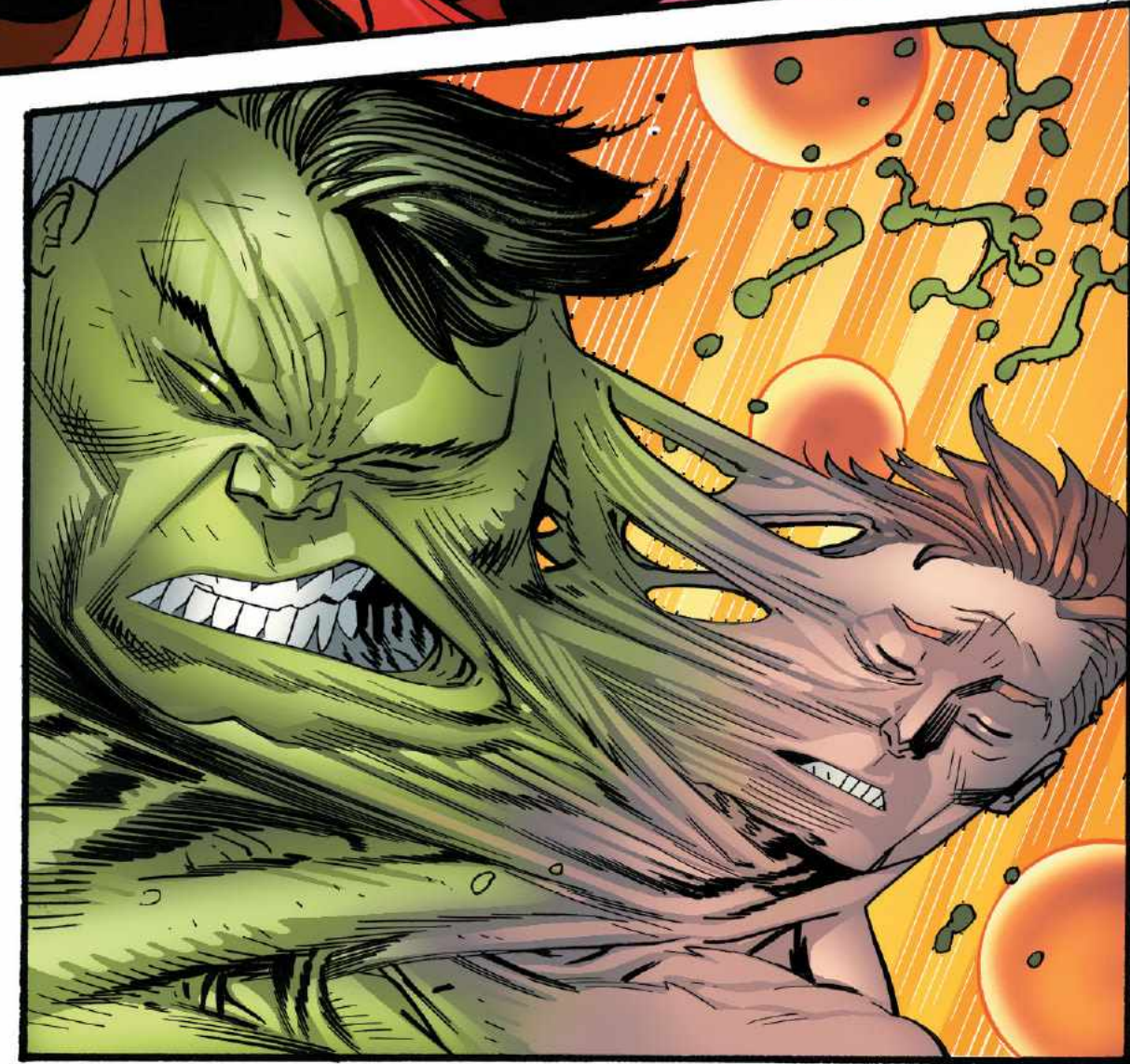
SO BE A GOOD
BOY--SIT DOWN, BE
QUIET AND WAIT PATIENTLY
FOR YOUR *ETERNAL*
INCARCERATION.

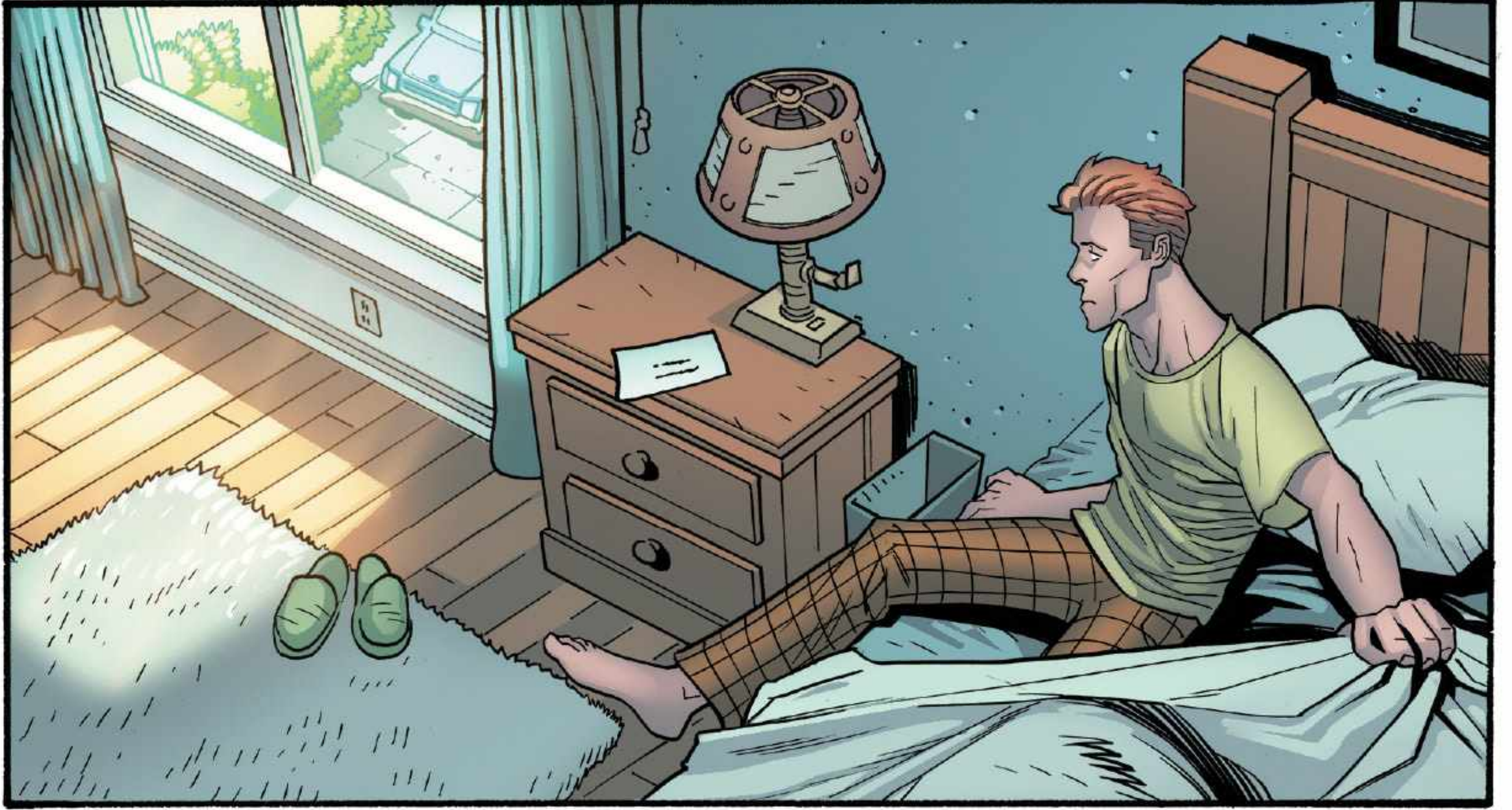
NO!

HULK
WON'T BE
CAGED!

HULK
FREE!

TH
O
M

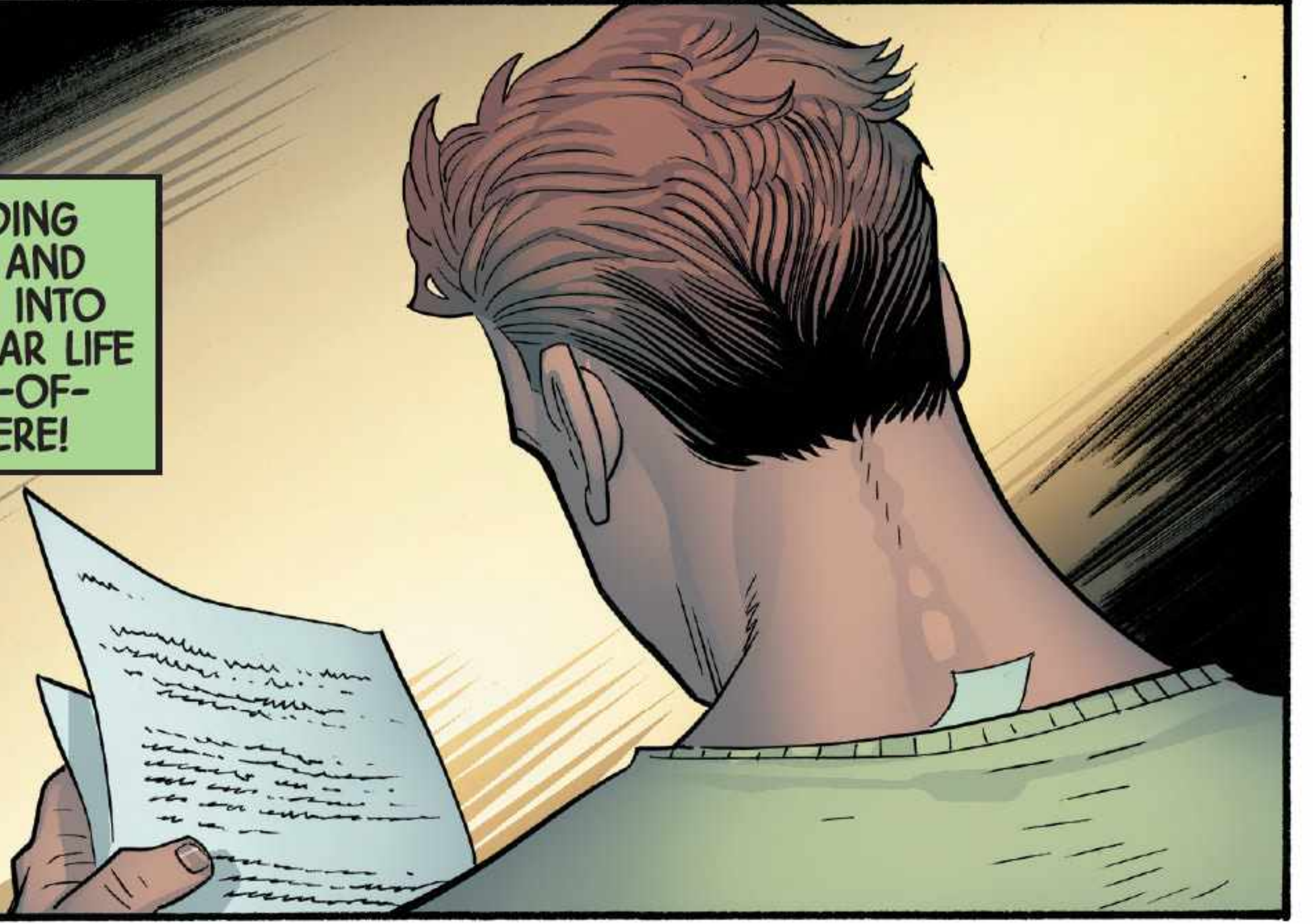




BRUCE, DOC
SAMSON HERE!

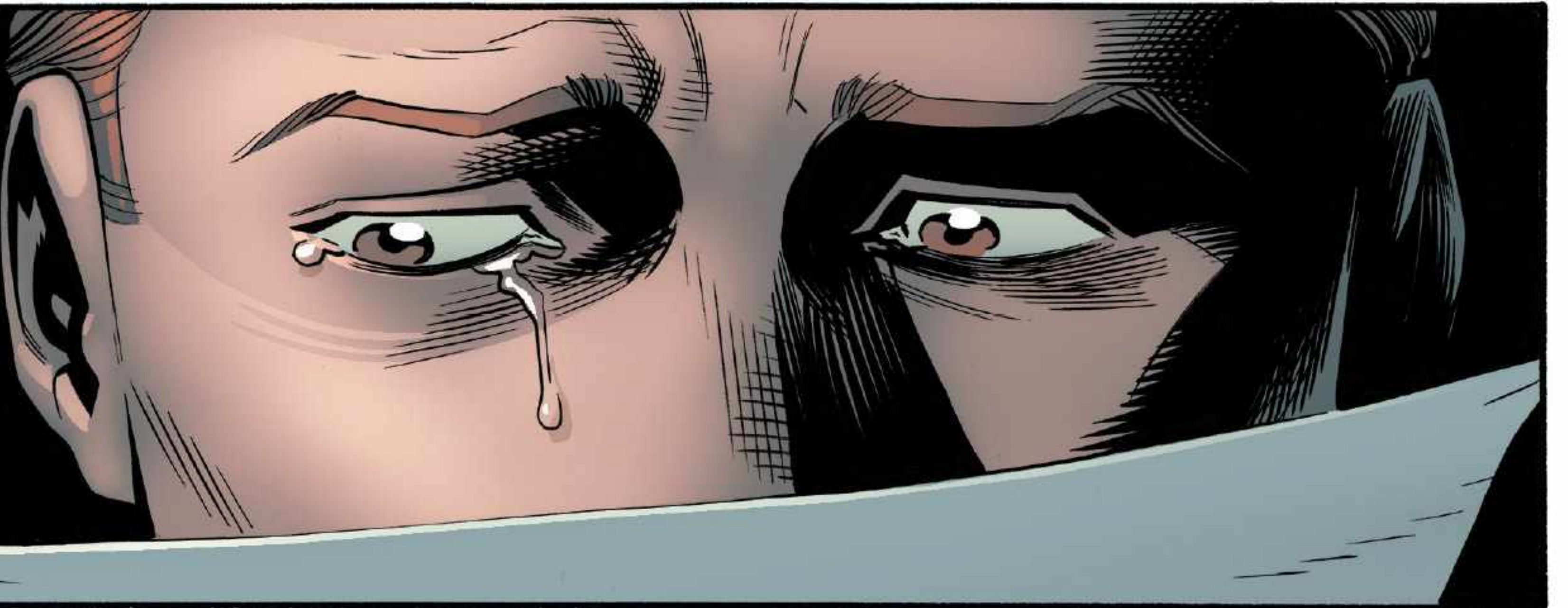
WELL, IF YOU'RE READING
THIS, YOU'RE AWAKE, AND
YOU'RE GETTING BACK INTO
THE SWING OF A REGULAR LIFE
WITH A REGULAR RUN-OF-
THE-MILL HULK IN THERE!

WELCOME BACK TO
EARTH! HOPE YOU
ENJOY THE
HOSPITALITY OF THE
STRANGE ACADEMY
UNTIL YOU FEEL YOU'RE
READY TO LEAVE.



AND LET ME START OFF BY
SAYING...YOU'RE NOT BLAMED
FOR WHAT HAPPENED. DO YOU
UNDERSTAND ME? ON THAT
HULK PLANET OR IN EL PASO.

KNOWING YOU, I'M
GUESSING YOU BLAME YOURSELF
AND WANT TO HIDE FROM
ALL THOSE WHO WERE CAUGHT
IN THE PATH OF DESTRUCTION.
BUT IT WASN'T YOU, BRUCE.



DOCTOR STRANGE DID A DEEP ASSESSMENT
ON YOUR MIND, AND IT'S OBVIOUS THAT
WHAT YOU WERE INFECTED WITH GREW TO
THE POINT THAT IT TOOK OVER.

AND YOU...YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO SAVED US
ALL. YOU AND THE BIG
GUY, OF COURSE.

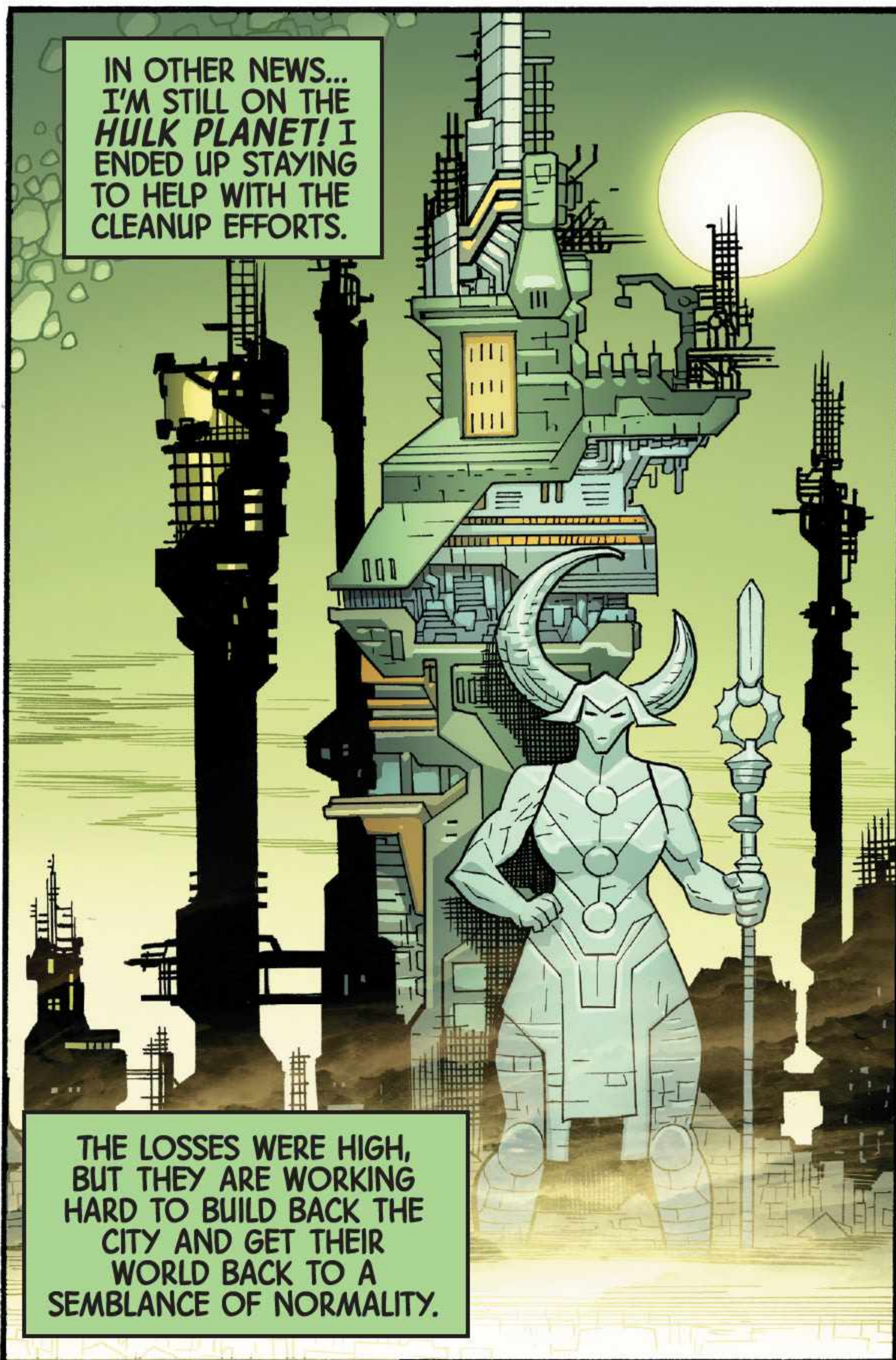
EVERYONE INVOLVED
NOW KNOWS OF YOUR
INNOCENCE AND HEROISM.



AND NO NEED
TO WORRY
ABOUT D'SPAYRE.



STRANGE ASSURES
ME HE WON'T BE A
PROBLEM ANY FURTHER.



IN OTHER NEWS...
I'M STILL ON THE
HULK PLANET! I
ENDED UP STAYING
TO HELP WITH THE
CLEANUP EFFORTS.

THE LOSSES WERE HIGH,
BUT THEY ARE WORKING
HARD TO BUILD BACK THE
CITY AND GET THEIR
WORLD BACK TO A
SEMBLANCE OF NORMALTY.



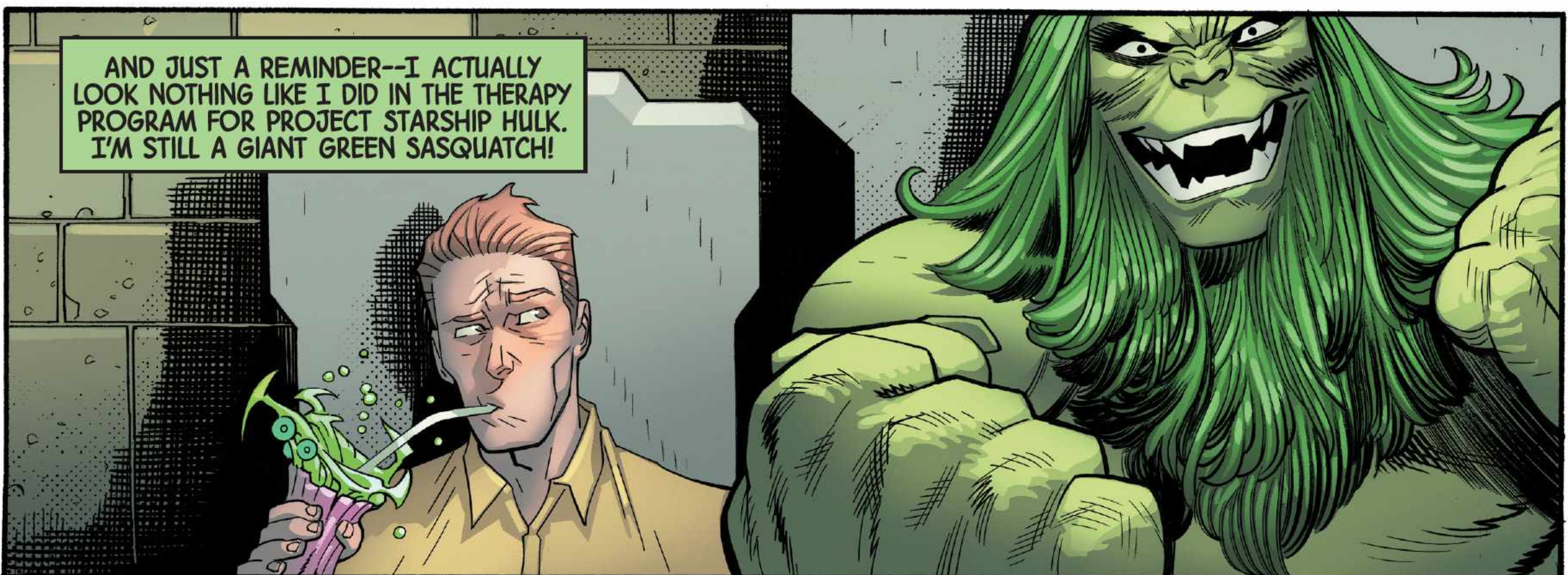
MONOLITH WANTS TO MEET
WITH YOU, BRUCE. DON'T
WORRY, SHE WAS BRIEFED ABOUT
THE WHOLE THING--AND
DOCTOR STRANGE REASSURED
HER THAT YOU ARE SAFE.

WHEN YOU'RE READY,
LOOK IN THE TOP DRAWER
OF THE NIGHTSTAND.
THERE'RE KEYS TO A REAL
SPACESHIP THAT WILL FLY
YOU HERE. NO INVASIVE
SURGERIES REQUIRED!

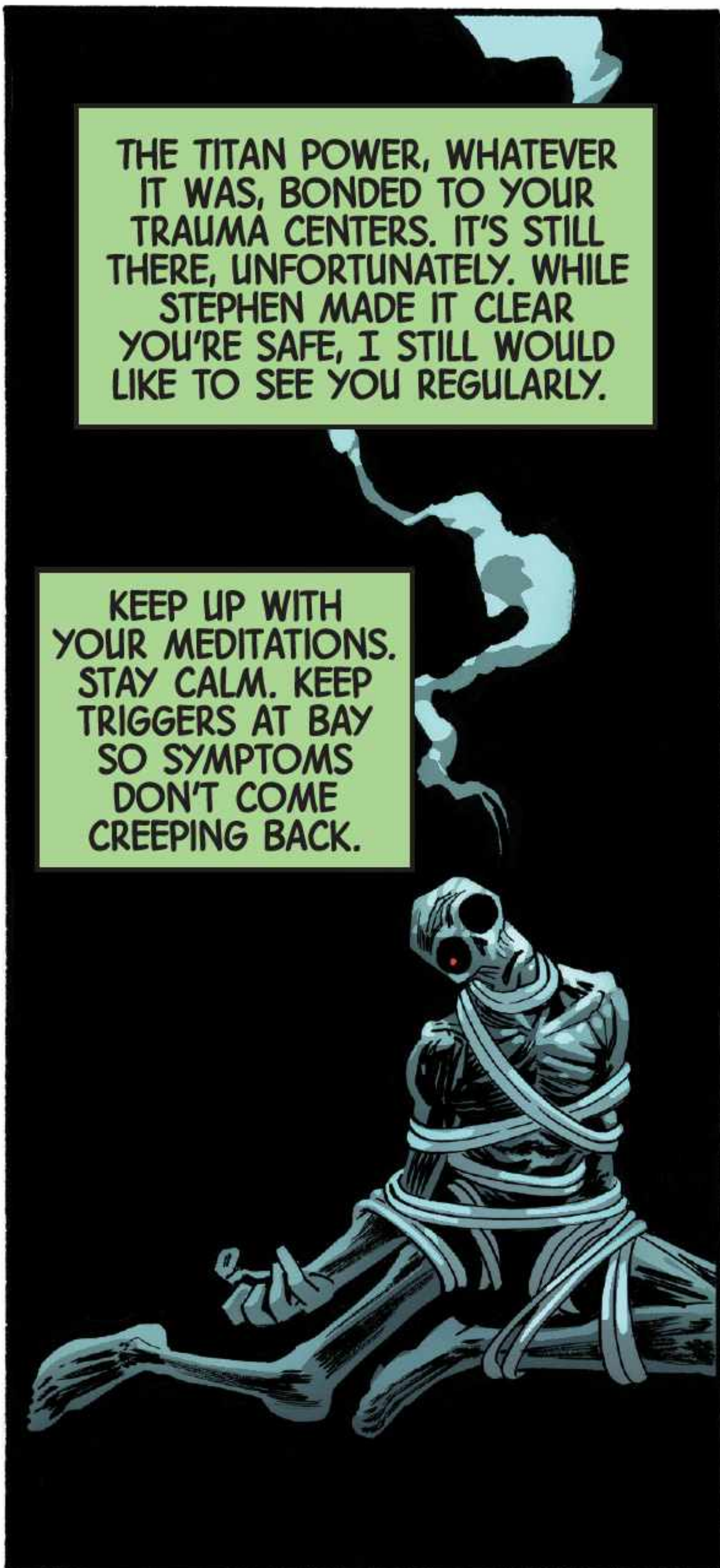


SO COME VISIT
HULK PLANET.
THEY ALL WANTED
ME TO INVITE YOU
TO THE OFFICIAL
GODBALL GAMES
STARTING
NEXT WEEK!

THEY SAID YOU WERE
QUITE THE ATHLETE, BUT
HULK SHOULD PROBABLY
SIT ON THE SIDELINES
FOR THIS ONE.

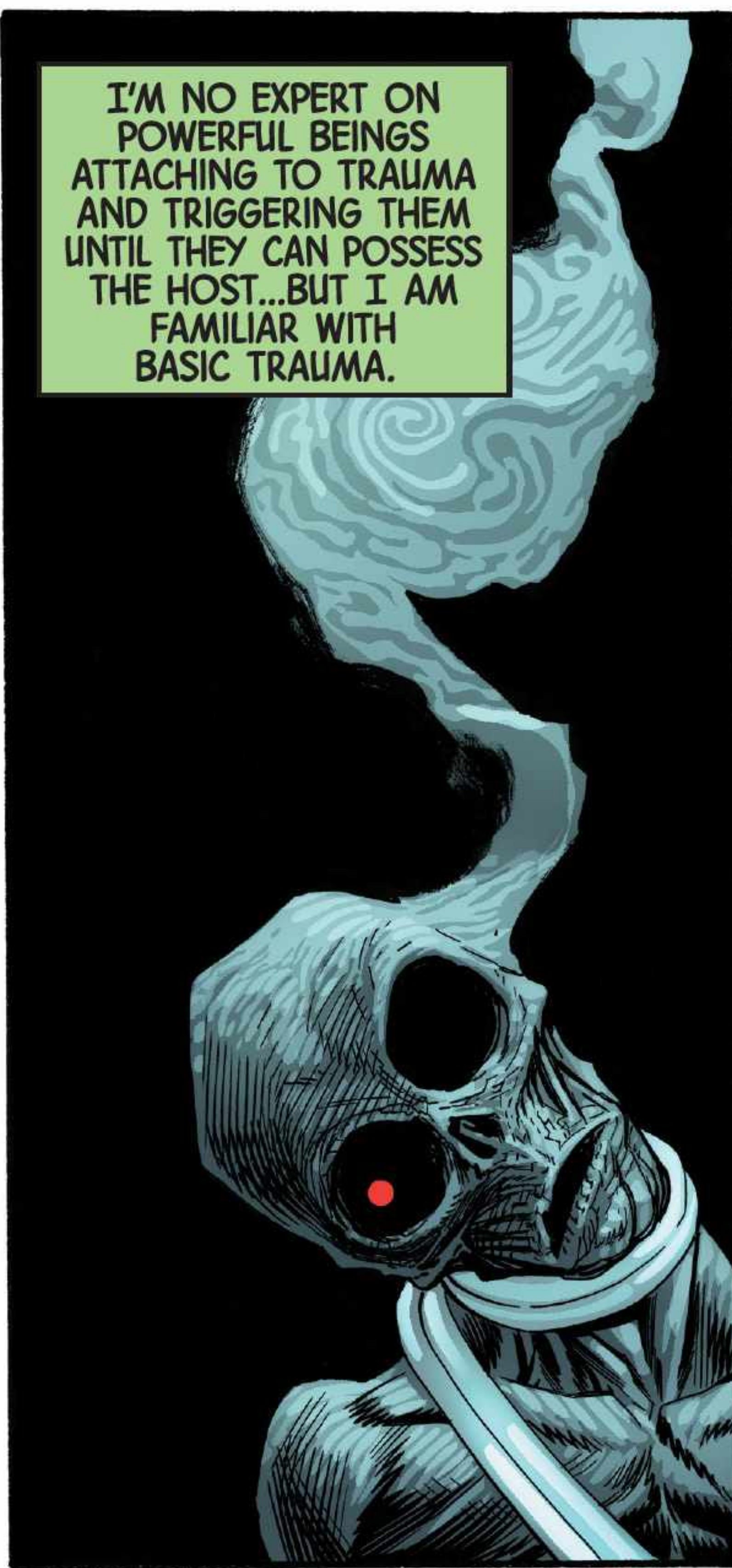


AND JUST A REMINDER--I ACTUALLY
LOOK NOTHING LIKE I DID IN THE THERAPY
PROGRAM FOR PROJECT STARSHIP HULK.
I'M STILL A GIANT GREEN SASQUATCH!

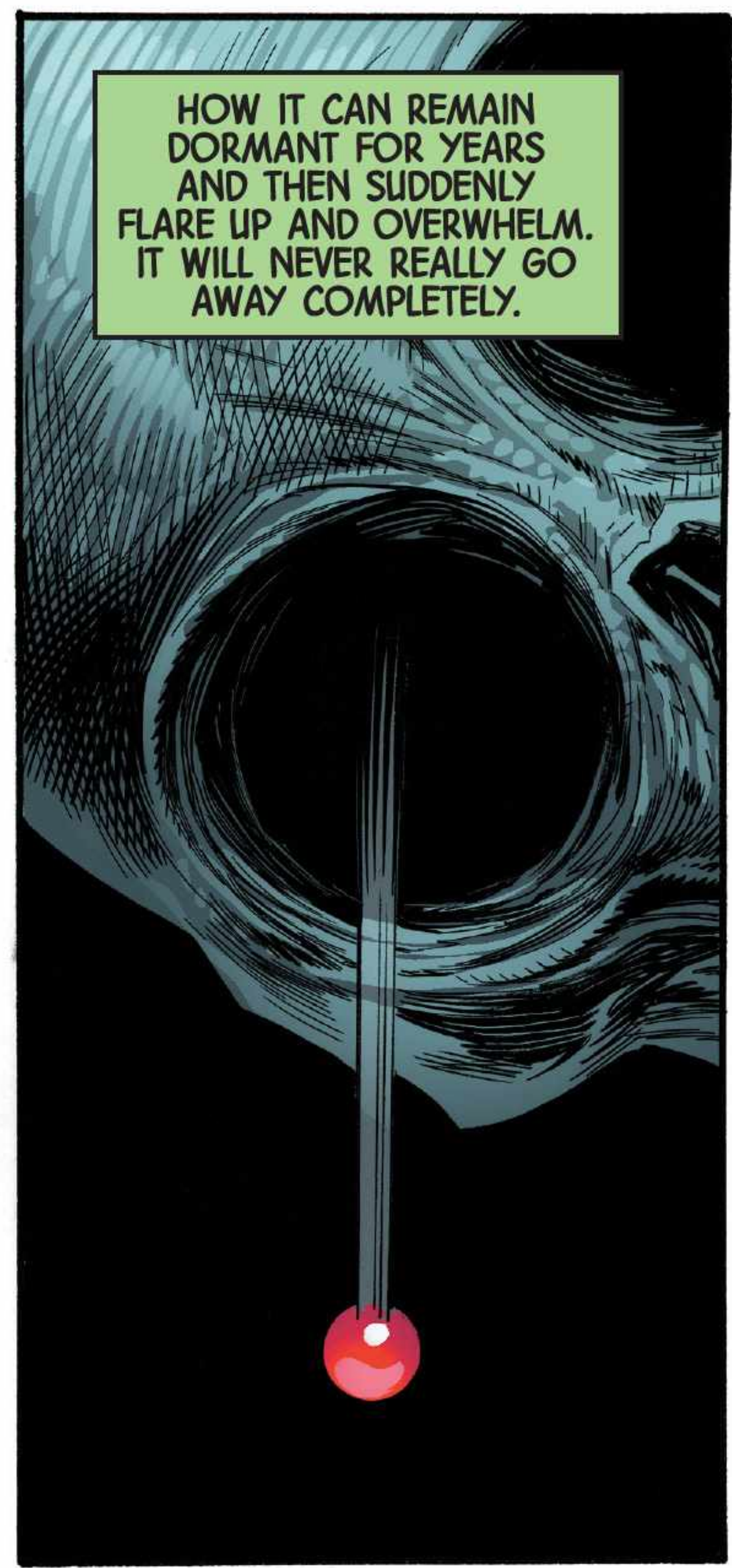


THE TITAN POWER, WHATEVER IT WAS, BONDED TO YOUR TRAUMA CENTERS. IT'S STILL THERE, UNFORTUNATELY. WHILE STEPHEN MADE IT CLEAR YOU'RE SAFE, I STILL WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU REGULARLY.

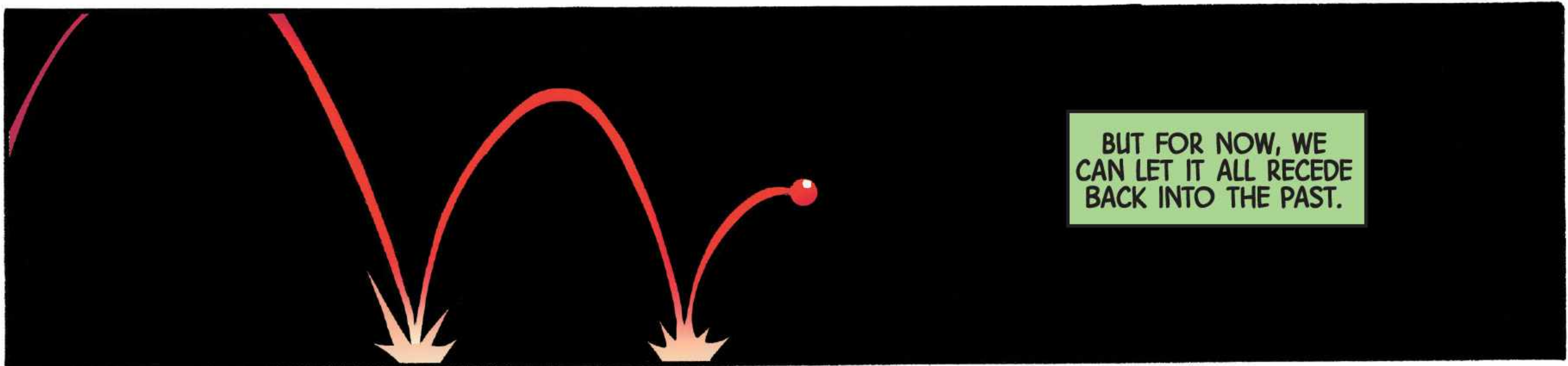
KEEP UP WITH YOUR MEDITATIONS. STAY CALM. KEEP TRIGGERS AT BAY SO SYMPTOMS DON'T COME CREEPING BACK.



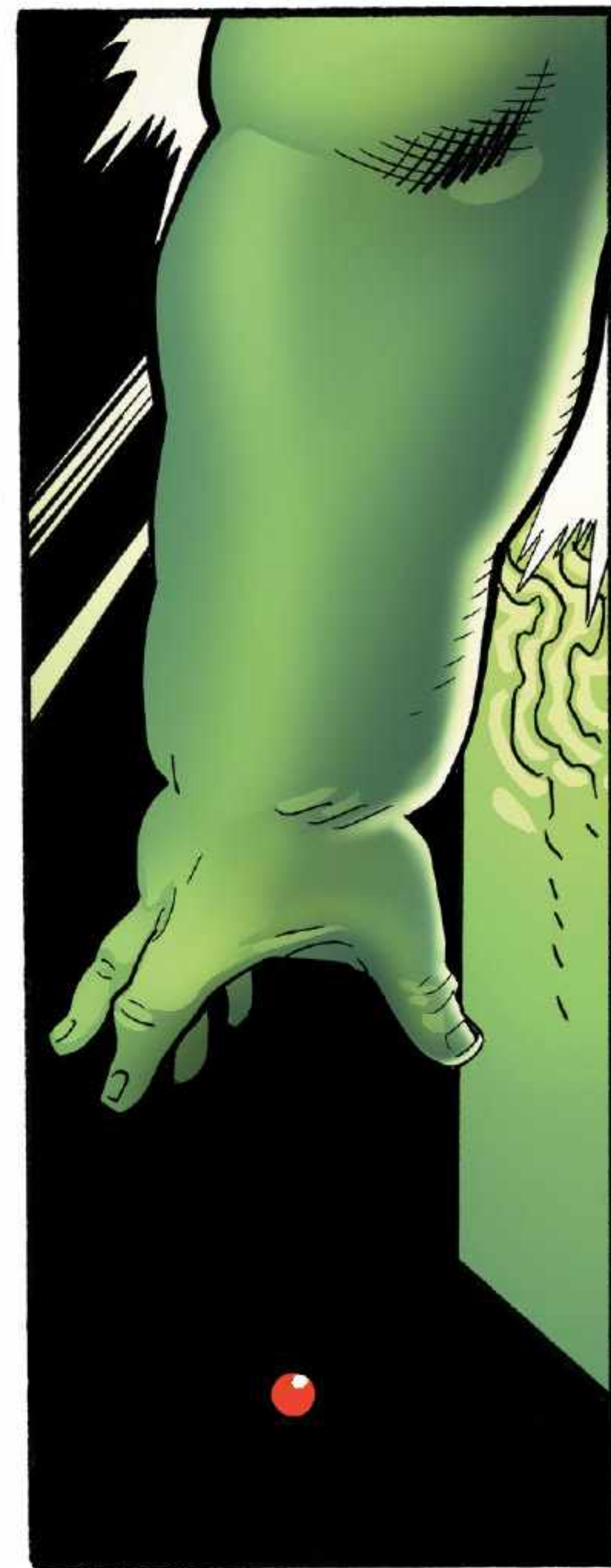
I'M NO EXPERT ON POWERFUL BEINGS ATTACHING TO TRAUMA AND TRIGGERING THEM UNTIL THEY CAN POSSESS THE HOST...BUT I AM FAMILIAR WITH BASIC TRAUMA.



HOW IT CAN REMAIN DORMANT FOR YEARS AND THEN SUDDENLY FLARE UP AND OVERWHELM. IT WILL NEVER REALLY GO AWAY COMPLETELY.



BUT FOR NOW, WE CAN LET IT ALL RECEDE BACK INTO THE PAST.



THE END...?

GROUND CONTROL TO **STARSHIP HULK**

READERS, THANK YOU FOR GIVING OUR INSANE IDEAS A CHANCE! IT'S BEEN SOMETHING WILDLY NEW FOR HULK, AND THAT'S WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT!

WHEN DONNY CATES FIRST PITCHED THIS INITIAL IDEA TO ME ON THE TAIL END OF MY AMAZING SPIDER-MAN RUN, I WAS IMMEDIATELY INTERESTED BECAUSE IT WAS NEW, IT WAS OUT THERE AND IT HAD SO MUCH AWESOME POTENTIAL TO BE THIS HIGH-CONCEPT, VISUALLY CRAZY HULK EPIC. AND DONNY IS SUCH A GREAT WRITER WHO I RESPECT LIKE CRAZY AND WHO I'D ALWAYS WANTED TO WORK WITH, SO THIS WAS THE PERFECT THING FOR US TO TEAM UP ON!

THINGS CHANGED THROUGHOUT AND I GOT THE CHANCE TO WRITE THE LAST FOUR ISSUES AND CLOSE OUT THE SERIES IN A WAY I THOUGHT WOULD BE A GOOD ENDING. I HOPE YOUR QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED. OF COURSE, I DIDN'T WANT TO ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS -- SOME THINGS SHALL REMAIN A MYSTERY!

MAYBE WE'LL SEE TITAN AGAIN SOMEDAY. SOMETIMES MY MIND WANDERS AND ALL THESE NEW IDEAS ABOUT MONOLITH AND GODBALL COME RUSHING IN, AND I THINK ABOUT HOW MUCH FUN ALL THAT WOULD BE TO EXPLORE FURTHER. BRUCE VISITING HULK PLANET FROM TIME TO TIME MAKES SENSE TO ME, FIGURING OUT A WAY FOR HULK TO PLAY MORE GODBALL, TO RETRIEVE MORE PLANET CORES, TO FIGHT OTHER THREATS, TO MAYBE EVEN SEE TITAN REAR HIS UGLY HEAD AGAIN AND MAKE IT TO EARTH (WHICH WOULD, OF COURSE, BE DISASTROUS). WHO KNOWS?!

I HAD SO MUCH FUN ON THIS SERIES, I HATE TO SEE IT GO! BUT I'M SUPER PROUD OF WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED AND I THINK THIS ENDING TIES EVERYTHING UP IN A NICE BOW. HOPEFULLY WE'VE DELIVERED A STANDALONE *HULK* RUN THAT'LL BE REMEMBERED FOR YEARS TO COME!

THANK YOU!
RYAN OTTLEY

And Doc Samson's not the only person who gets to close things out with a letter! Here are a few words from some of the readers who have joined Bruce Banner on this wild ride across mindscapes and starscapes.

Dear Godballers,

I was excited to learn that Ryan Ottley would be penciling AND writing the remaining four issues of the "Hulk Planet" storyline. And halfway through, I have not been disappointed!

Godball was such a fun concept, so I enjoyed seeing Ottley execute the game to his own vision, as well as the boiling tensions both inward and outward of the Hulk ship. Looking forward to reading the remaining issues from Ottley and company.

Stay Hulk-busting,
Brian Thomer

Calling Starship Hulk!

I just finished reading *HULK* #12 and am greatly enjoying each new issue. Banner's attempt to control the Hulk through advanced technology and ancient magic is utterly brilliant and

insane all at the same time. The engine room harnessing the Hulk's rage is awesome--but Banner is playing with a nuclear fire here, and he's starting to buckle badly. Can Doc Samson keep Banner sane? I certainly hope not.

Titan is now unleashed, but I feel the real threat is the architect behind Bruce's mind palace. Who would do such a thing? And to what end? The clues so far of "ancient" and "magic" have got me wondering--is it Doctor Doom? He's worked with Banner in the past. Or maybe the Scarlet Witch? Whoever it is, I can't wait to find out, and I'm sure the Hulk is eager too!

Keep up the great work, and until the Hulk swaps his torn purple pants for yellow spandex, Make Mine Marvel!

Steven Tweedy

Just got done reading *HULK* #13, and this whole series has been fun since the beginning! Ryan Ottley's artwork is amazing--I feel like I am in the story with all the characters. I can't wait to see what comes next with this villain Titan. And thanks for all the fun and joy everyone at

Marvel gives to the fans.

Justin Smith

Starship Hulk may be grounded for now, but we all know the Hulk never manages to stay out of trouble for long...

First, check out
HULK
ANNUAL #1



THE INCREDIBLE HULK

#1

COMING IN JUNE!



Find out what horrors have been waiting for Hulk's return to Earth as Phillip Kennedy Johnson and Nic Klein usher in the terrifying Age of Monsters!



ZONE